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Latin America Report



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6 February 1986

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINE, BRAZILIAN, URUGUAYAN PRESIDENTS TO MEET

PY131607 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2010 GMT 12 Jan 86

[By Alberto Francisco Arebalos]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 January (EFE)--Argentine Foreign Ministry sources today told EFE that the Argentine, Brazilian, and Uruguayan Governments are preparing a "summit meeting" for February in Montevideo.

At the meeting, the chiefs of state of the three young South American democracies will discuss a long agenda in which the subject of the foreign debt "will not be left out."

Presidents Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Jose Sarney of Brazil, and Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay will analyze new strategies for the payment of the debt, the possibilities of increasing trilateral cooperation, and the strengthening of democracy in the three countries.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry sources confirmed to EFE that "intense negotiations were held over the last few days" to prepare for the meeting in the second half of February.

Since Uruguay is one of the largest "per capita" debtors in Latin America, and while Brazil and Argentina are the first and third debtors of the subcontinent in absolute terms, it is expected that the possibility of coordinating their negotiations and dealings with the international banks to refinance the foreign debt will be discussed.

Meanwhile, observers have pointed out the repeated visits by high-ranking U.S. officials and personalities to the three South American countries.

In this regard, it has been pointed out that the United States has allegedly decided to support and grant "privileges" to the process of consolidating democracy in this part of the continent.

The influential banker David Rockefeller is currently visiting Argentina and Uruguay, which is interpreted by political circles as an expression of support for the economic policies being implemented in the two countries.

Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy has also included these three countries in his current Latin American tour, clearly demonstrating his support for the democratic governments.

A position acknowledging and appreciating this support will allegedly be assumed by Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, but at the same time they will "firmly" demand the end of protectionism by the developed Western powers as well as the removal of trade barriers to regional products and the reduction of the international interest rate.

The sources also told EFE that despite the fact that there are points in common that make cooperation among the three countries feasible, the three chiefs of state cannot ignore their different situations.

While Brazil has attained a high degree of industrial growth, Argentina still has not been able to break away from its dependency on its agricultural and livestock sectors, and Uruguay has a much less promising economic potential than the other two countries.

In addition, inflation in Argentina has nearly been stopped with the implementation of the Austral Plan, while on the contrary Brazil suffered a 200-percent price increase in 1985.

Argentina has reached an agreement with the IMF and submitted to a strict internal adjustment, while Brazil has rejected this possibility and has renegotiated its debt with the private creditors.

In turn, Argentine economic officials have told EFE that "the development of the Austral Plan is being followed closely" in Brasilia.

Anyhow, Argentine officials are hopeful that "the points in common will permit an interesting complementation in different fields."

In this sense, the Argentine Foreign Ministry sources believe that a mechanism similar to the Cartagena consensus may be established after the meeting to "follow up" on the foreign debt negotiations and other regional problems.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

U.S. ACCUSED OF PUSHING 'SLOGANS' WHILE CBI LANGUISHES

Rickey Singh Comment

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Jan 86 p 4

[Article by Rickey Singh]

[Excerpts] Pressing Problems

The Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, James Mitchell, has identified unemployment and teenage pregnancies among the major, if not the two most pressing problems facing his and a number of the territories of the Eastern Caribbean that are grouped as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Quite unlike some of his counterparts, Mitchell is not yet in the habit of putting a gloss over pressing socio-economic issues, and highlighting instead governmental "achievements". Like nearby St. Lucia, with whose head of government, John Compton, he has much in common, politically, Mitchell is presiding in St. Vincent over a level of unemployment (40 per cent) and illiteracy (over 30 per cent) that no amount of slogans from the right or left can resolve.

Unemployment officially varies between 16 percent in Trinidad to as high as 26-40 percent in most CARICOM countries, with Barbados at 21 per cent.

Add teenage pregnancies and unemployment to the drug-related crimes that every CARICOM member state now faces, some more than others...for instance, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados...and include also the hopes dashed by lack of expected benefits from President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), and the scenario that emerges for 1983 is far from encouraging. It is, in fact, depressing.

Some politicians like Grenada's Herbert Blaize, Dominica's Eugenia Charles, and the Birds (Vere and Lester) of Antigua and Barbuda, were still marketing "democracy" with an evangelical zeal in the midst of chronic social and economic problems, which they and their extra-regional allies know cannot justifiably be laid at the feet of some "alien ideology" against which they have been seeking to mobilise support.

During the last quarter of 1985, the Jamaican Prime Minister had the privilege of hosting, first, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, **George Chambers** (last month's *Contact*), and, shortly after, the heads of government of Grenada and Dominica, on their return trip from the annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean. While they both officially talked trade and economic co-operation and shied away from any discussions on political unity, the Seaga-Chambers meeting for sure had nothing to do with a pet project of the ruling right-wing politicians of CARICOM — the creation of a US-influenced Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU).

On the other hand, both Ms. Charles and Mr. Blaize have deep interest in the growth of this pro-US and anti-communist initiative by the parties that participated with the United States in the October 1983 invasion of Grenada. The CDU, spawned in Dominica last September, at a conference hosted by Ms. Charles' ruling Freedom Party, is to have a fancy ceremonial launching with Mr. Seaga's help in Jamaica early this year.

A significant absentee from this "CDU gathering" of rightwing and conservative parties involved in the Grenada invasion is the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) which, as a member of the Socialist International, has been careful to demonstrate its own independence while remaining very friendly with the USA.

In contrast, the ruling Antigua Labour Party of PM Vere Bird, has been throwing discretion to the wind as it moves, slavishly, some critics say, in the direction of US foreign policy objectives for this area for which the Reagan administration has no difficulties providing military assistance, but cannot get the CBI to work for the Caribbean Community states.

No sooner had the US-co-ordinated *Exotic Palm* joint military manoeuvres been completed in St. Lucia, than the government of Antigua and Barbuda — short on development strategy but long on pro-American rhetoric — was participating with American military personnel in their own special military exercises, labelled *Upward Key*.

This development coincided with the news out of St. John's that the Bird regime had given the US the official okay to use its territory as a military training ground for American and regional personnel.

So much for the Caribbean as a "zone of peace"! So much for our "independence" and "democracy"!

Needless to say that hope for the Caribbean Community in 1986 and beyond lies not in the wishful thinking of the Community's managers; in the CBI or in giving the Americans an even greater role than they already have. We have for instance, to concentrate seriously and honestly on the rationalisation of the region's economy and not simply seek to boost intra-regional trade.

Critique of Bush Speech

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Jan 86 pp 4-5

[Article by Tony Best]

[Text]

ST. LUCIA'S Prime Minister, Mr. **John Compton**, was surprisingly blunt in his reaction to the comments of US Vice-President, Mr. **George Bush**. "We are ac-

customed to being talked down to and being talked at," Mr. Compton said in Miami a few days after Mr. Bush had delivered what many Americans present were describing as a "frank telling-off" to Caribbean countries.

But Mr. Compton didn't stop there. Said he: "I think the United States would be well advised to put its own house in order first before it comes preaching to us in the Caribbean." The St. Lucia Prime Minister's reaction to Mr. Bush followed the line of thinking of the Barbados leader, Mr. Bernard St. John. As Mr. St. John explained it, Mr. Bush's speech writer should descend from the mountain of theory in Washington D.C. and function from the valley of hard-nose reality.

Said he: "I think Vice President Bush's speech writer obviously is a theoretician operating from Washington or wherever he is from. He obviously doesn't understand the economies of the Eastern Caribbean. It is strange that here we are trying to encourage investment from the private sector from the United States into the Caribbean, and the same United States people keep coming demanding to see government ministers to ensure that they are satisfied that governments are going to help them get their projects off the ground."

The speech which evoked that negative reaction from Mr. Compton and Mr. St. John was delivered at the recent Miami Conference on the Caribbean and can best be described as a piece of work that is grounded in the theory: the best method of defence is to go on the attack.

ATTACK ON TAXES

In other words, if you can't defend a position effectively, then attack your opponent and throw him or her off-balance. His first line of attack was on taxes, complaining that "many countries of the Caribbean Basin have tax rates that far exceed those of the United States". While he did not specify what taxes he was talking about, he criticised Caribbean states for maintaining "poor collection procedures" which he charged were collecting "very little revenue".

"The high rates deter new investment even though little tax is actually collected," was the way he put it. "We should work together to lower rates while simultaneously improving efficiency and effectiveness of the overall system."

It is difficult to understand what taxes Mr. Bush was talking about, because foreign investors are the beneficiaries of a plethora of tax holidays. Many of the investors end up paying no taxes at all and some of them pack up their bags and leave the Caribbean when the time has come for them to pay taxes. Perhaps, Mr. Bush was motivated to talk about taxes because the Reagan Administration proposed a major overhaul of the US tax system and therefore feels the Caribbean states should just follow suit, regardless of its necessity.

RED TAPE

His next point was governmental red tape in the Caribbean. "Many countries pile license requirements on license requirement, permit upon permit," the Vice President declared. "Just getting the licenses and permits to start or expand an enterprise can take months." What he

said he would like to see happen was a streamlining of the operation of "one-stop permitting agencies", the industrial development statutory corporations which Caribbean governments have established to attract foreign investment and help businessmen set up their operations. "CBI countries should give their one-stop regulatory agencies real authority within their governments," he said. "They should also reduce the overall level of regulation."

While it is true that many Caribbean states have over-regulated business activity by requiring entrepreneurs to wade through several layers of red tape, the people who suffer most are the local business persons. Foreigners often receive easier treatment by being exempted from having to comply with regulatory procedures. Indeed, the advent of the CBI and the prospects of foreign investment encouraged states in the region to take second and third looks at their regulations.

Caribbean countries could not help but feel put upon by Mr. Bush because of their own efforts to reduce red tape while the US maintains considerable regulatory procedures, particularly in the area of agribusiness. The rules and regulations which Caribbean exporters must satisfy before they make a single shipment of agricultural produce to America often require the hiring of specialists to advise them on getting around the red tape.

Two Thorny Issues

In other words, Mr. Bush's admonitions were akin to the pot telling the kettle that it was black. He next turned his attention to two particular thorny areas for Caribbean countries wishing to export more to the US. They were, protectionism and customs regulations.

Mr. Bush talked about the imposition of export duties and port charges by Caribbean states and the enormous port charges imposed by countries in the region.

"What's more," he went on, "customs services are too often extremely inefficient. They create unnecessary delays that strangle trade and choke off the interest of investors."

America's customs regulations are among the world's most complicated and one would therefore find it extremely difficult to understand Mr. Bush's complaints about Caribbean customs procedures. As to seaport charges, the labour rates at America's harbours make the movement of goods from foreign countries to the US a costly exercise, a painful fact of life for Caribbean exporters. But more important, Caribbean states must impose duties to run the harbours which the foreign investors demand as a prerequisite for setting up a plant in a particular country.

The complaint about taxes, red tape, port charges and import duties seem to create the impression that Mr. Bush would like Caribbean states to open their doors to American businessmen without requiring some responsibility to their host countries. On top of that, he was suggesting that Caribbean countries

follow the lead set by the US, even if it meant that they would be placed at a decided disadvantage.

With respect to his complaint about protectionism in the region, he was on safe ground when he suggested that "the nations of the Caribbean Basin would be far stronger if they traded more freely among themselves". He was also correct when he said that the trade barriers now present in the Caribbean should come down. But, Caribbean countries would hardly find his observations as being useful because of the tremendous loss in revenue which they have sustained as a result of the trade barriers which the Congress in Washington and the Reagan Administration set up to reduce the amount of sugar imported into the US from the Caribbean, Latin America and other parts of the world.

Admittedly, the Reagan Administration has been an opponent of the protectionist sentiment in Congress. Still, the effects of the slashing of import duties have shortchanged Caribbean nations. That reduction in quotas has helped to reduce the impact of the CBI in terms of exports from the region. It was one of the problems to which the Barbados Prime Minister pointed when he criticised the protectionist forces in Washington, people who are stunting any growth of trade between the US and the Caribbean.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINE COLUMNIST VIEWS ON CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY

PY190025 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jan 86 pp 1, 4

[J. Iglesias Rouco commentary: "Argentina and Central America--Part 3"]

[Text] On 11 January we referred to the hollow reasons with which Army Chief of Staff General Rios Erenu tried to explain the arrest of several officers on "conspiracy" charges and the subsequent promotion of the same officers. According to the general, this is tangible evidence that we are living in a "state of law," that the courts are operating properly, and that "democracy" prevails in Argentina.

We will not reiterate our opinion of Gen Rios Erenu's reasons now. We know that the situation of the army chief of staff is not exactly easy. Many of his friends within the government, including the president himself, have begun to think that he will not be able to keep his post for very much longer, even though they know that army problems will not be solved by replacing Rios Erenu. We agree with this. However, we believe that if a military chief cannot tell the entire truth, he should remain silent. And as far as we know, neither Rios Erenu nor the president, who shared bitter hours in the wake of the affair involving the arrested officers, can tell the entire truth. For example, can they explain why, in addition to their promotions, the officers' original assignments were changed to their advantage? Summing up, we have the impression that some aspects of this situation are too similar to the Guglielminetti "affair," although the cases stand at different ethical levels.

Just as Rios Erenu's reasoning is out of keeping with reality, Mr Caputo's approach to the Nicaraguan issue is, to say the least, totally incomprehensible. Our foreign minister probably has not heeded a wise warning that Mr Castro, the Cuban Communist leader, issued to an Argentine Government delegate, we believe around 1984. Fidel said: "It is impossible to fight and at the same time be on good terms with both the United States and the USSR. You have to make your choice. This has to be a clear game."

As a matter of fact, after 2 years, during which credits were granted to Managua, and Argentina undertook all sorts of pro-Sandinist diplomatic actions, Mr Caputo changed his mind. Actually, his position must have undergone a major shift after 10 January. Mr Caputo is now pretending that he has only just discovered that Nicaragua is a Soviet beachhead in Latin America, that consequently, it is not exactly a Latin American "democracy," and that it is promoting the East-West conflict in the region.

Beyond all doubt, Caputo was following the same line of thinking when some time ago he told several local businessmen that capitalism is the only development model with which he agrees. Now we wonder, when he expressed his new opinion on Sandinism and on the economy, was he unaware:

1. That just a few days before, his government and his party had supported the sending of a new "coffee brigade" to Nicaragua, and that several brigade members belong to the Pink-Stripe faction and the FUA [Argentina University Federation], who will be free to harvest something more than coffee in that country (and in Cuba)?;

2. That late in 1985, an important Cuban official with close links to Havana's diplomatic services, armed forces, and intelligence services installed himself at the Cuban embassy in Buenos Aires with the objective of preparing a "revolutionary" penetration scheme throughout Latin America, beginning with Bolivia, and even designating a kind of ad hoc committee?;

3. That according to a report released by the Press Department of the Soviet Embassy in Buenos Aires on 22 November 1985, Mr Caputo "explained"--in connection with his decision to visit the USSR--that "the Soviet Union and Argentina agree on a wide of range of international issues"; that all of them have "great significance" (consequently, they include Central America); and that Caputo also expressed "Argentina's (?satisfaction) with the repeated statements by CPSU Central Committee Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev, whose ideas," Caputo added, quoting the Soviet embassy report, are in agreement "with the spirit of the New Delhi declaration, which was signed by Argentina"?;

4. That he has never admitted the existence of a similar agreement with Washington?;

5. That in 1984 (and probably later) Mr Grinspun and Mr Sourrouille said in private meetings that Argentina would not repay its foreign debt and that it "would denounce" the United States for this problem?;

6. That according to very recent intelligence reports now in his possession, more than 30 Nicaraguan and Cuban agents and activists have legally entered Argentina over the past few weeks and have disappeared, having apparently gone to neighboring countries?;

7. That before the Chilean police last week leaked that the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (a pro-Soviet, armed communist group which has just begun a struggle against the Pinochet dictatorship) was receiving arms from Argentina and Peru, the Foreign Ministry received several memos from Argentine embassies? The memos pointed out that the governments of neighboring countries--including some democratic governments--were concerned about the activities that Nicaraguan and Cuban experts headquartered in Argentina were undertaking along their borders and even within their own territories;

8. That he himself has just designated a pro-Cuban and pro-Sandinist political science expert with well-known leftist leanings as one of his personal advisers? Like other advisers, or former advisers to the foreign minister, like Mr O'Connell or Mr Lavergne, this expert is experienced only [in] the ideological field;

9. That despite the statements he made on 10 January, the proposal that he took to Caracas and to the Contadora support group (Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay) is basically identical to the one that Buenos Aires has been considering since December 1984? This proposal has received the express approval of Managua and Havana, at least as far as its objectives are concerned;

10. That such a proposal, which would serve to secure the U.S. but not the Cuban and Soviet withdrawal from Central America, and to create a new Latin American bloc within the OAS--a bloc that would be in an "equidistant" position with respect to Washington--has not received Brazilian, Colombian, and Uruguayan support (to cite just some democratic nations), and that the White House has obviously regarded it with considerable reluctance?;

11. That one of his friends--we do not know whether he acted on instructions from the minister himself--last week contacted the parties that on 11 January most harshly criticized the statements by Caputo, like the PCA [Communist Party of Argentina] and the PI [Intrasigent Party], to tell them about the contents of the statement the minister was to release and to allegedly encourage them to condemn the minister, in order to reveal the limitations of the government in that area and to "westernize" it, thus facilitating his work in Caracas?

We reiterate: Isn't this information likely to raise suspicions about Argentina's "political orientation," as Caputo would put it?

Summing up, it is clear that the foreign minister is trying to "put on a good show" in the face of the large number of U.S. visitors coming to Argentina. Among these visitors was Kennedy himself, who despite his domestic political interests has said he believes that it will be equally impossible for his country to militarily intervene in Central America or to leave the region (he said this after approving of Brazil's decision not to reestablish relations with Cuba). The foreign minister may also be trying to gain time, in view of the end of the recess that Managua asked from Contadora and of the "worsening" of the conflict, expected for mid-1986. Although from the opposite direction, Mr Sourrouille has also put on "his own good show" in connection with the visit by Mr Rockefeller. He has suggested though, that he was not planning to overwhelm the visitor with attention (this duty was assigned to Mr Brodersohn). This is how Government House is trying to please the local "right" and the external "left."

But both sectors would make a mistake if they gave too much credit to these signals, although the groups that are neither "Socialist" nor Marxist are more likely to do so. Just as the government will also make a mistake if it believes that this kind of show can confuse either those who make decisions at world level or the Argentine democratic people.

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CSO: 3348/373

ARGENTINA

ALFONSIN ON SALARY HIKES, ECONOMY, STRIKES

PY141840 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2201 GMT 13 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 January (TELAM)--President Raul Alfonsin has stressed that in 1975 Isabelita [Peron's] arm was twisted with requests for salary increases that caused a tremendous escalation in the inflation rate that in the end, as always, fell on the shoulders of the workers, and this led to what was later called the "Rodrigo effect" [after Celestino Rodrigo, who was economy minister at that time]. I am not going to let my arm be twisted, the president said.

He indicated that during the past few years the policy has been to think in terms of a nominal salary, but what has happened? There was an increase in salaries that immediately led to hikes in prices, and within a month we were back at square one, but with a difference: Inflation had again rocketed.

After rejecting the possibility that the 24 January labor strike will be declared illegal by the government, he stated that what must be understood is that we are facing guidelines that have become entrenched in the country over the past 40 years and this, in a way, is going to cost us somewhat to overcome.

He repeated that all of us have rights, and I do not believe that the CGT [General Labor Confederation] leaders are implementing the strike for anti-democratic purposes. Above all, I believe that they are also at the service of democracy, but my opinion is that on this occasion they are mistaken. Let us hope that we can agree on other matters.

On his return from a brief period of rest at the resort city of Miramar, the president stressed: I perfectly remember the end of 1975. At that time another type of salary increase was implemented. At that time Isabelita's "arm was twisted" and they obtained the salary increase that they had demanded. This time, they have not indicated the salary increase they want.

He recalled that on that occasion inflation rocketed tremendously and in the end, as always, it fell on the shoulders of the workers, it worked against the workers, and it was later called the "Rodrigo effect." I am not going to let my arm be twisted. I am convinced that I must serve the Argentine people, especially the workers, by implementing the policy that was accepted by the Argentine people in the elections, he declared.

I believe that with a more stable economy such as this one, the increase must be measured in terms of a real salary, he said, adding that it is his opinion that if the labor movement wants to be the motor of the social process, as it should be in any democracy, then it must change its practices as well as its tactics.

He expressed his desire that the political parties and labor and business organizations must also understand the situation, and that many things can be achieved with creativity and imagination.

However, Alfonsin emphasized that at this time the economy is not in a situation to allow us to grant the salary increases that we want to, but we have the PAN (National Food Program). We are giving out food through the PAN, and this demonstrates the seriousness of the crisis that is affecting more than 5 million people.

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ARGENTINA

RADICALS TO HOLD DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNISTS

PY172050 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1150 GMT 17 Jan 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 January (NA)--A high-ranking UCR [Radical Civic Union] source has disclosed that the UCR will soon try to hold dialogue with the communist party (PC) because top-ranking government officials, involving President Raul Alfonsin, are concerned that the PC, headed by Athos Fava, is revising its position regarding the use of violence.

The source told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the issue was discussed during the meeting held by Alfonsin on the evening of 15 January at the Olivos residence with several of his ministers and well-known UCR legislators. The source added that at this meeting, they reviewed incidents that occurred in the march against David Rockefeller.

The source added that the issue was discussed in the Olivos meeting. It is an issue which has concerned Alfonsin over the past few months prompted by the Chilean Communist Party decision to take up the armed struggle against the Pinochet government and the possible influence that this decision might have on the attitude within the Argentine PC.

The same source noted that Argentine Communists "made a secret pact with the dictatorship but now the PC press reflects a change of attitude with visible differences between its public position and its political action."

The source added that the UCR may soon try to start a dialogue with the PC to avoid its isolation, which might lead it to violence, and noted that "there is a relationship between what is happening in the two countries because the Argentine PC will have to support the struggle of the Chilean PC."

Meanwhile, on its front page under the title "Official Precautions In View Of Communist Attitudes," LA NACION quotes official sources noting that "there is concern" among government officials who feel that "for the time being there is no cause for alarm but it is an issue of concern."

The source notes that a group of the Communist Youth Federation (FJC) interrupted a speech being delivered by President Alfonsin in Campana in the second half of 1985 by shouting "Fascist," and that "in view of the verticalism that prevails within the PC, there is no doubt that the attitude adopted by the group which verbally attacked Alfonsin was not spontaneous."

Moreover, the source notes that "it is highly unlikely that the PC, which has vast experience in leading street demonstrations, would be unable to control a demonstration of 1,000 or 2,000 people." The source alluded to incidents which occurred on 13 January during the march to repudiate the presence in Argentina of David Rockefeller.

It adds that "there is the possibility that the UCR will undertake dialogue with the PC on such delicate issues but so far there have been no contacts in this regard."

The newspaper also notes that during the national strike decreed by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] for 24 January "Some will take the opportunity to cause street disorders," in which event "the government will be placed in a difficult position."

/12232

CSO: 3348/372

ARGENTINA

CGT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE, ATTACKS ALFONSIN

PY190255 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0029 GMT 18 Jan 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 January (TELAM)--Seven days after having called a general strike because it believes the salary increase decreed by the government is insufficient, the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) tonight, in a document that strongly criticizes President Raul Alfonsin, made known its demands.

The CGT demands a 28 percent increase for this month in contrast to the 5 percent granted by the government on salaries, a 50 percent increase for family allowances and another 5 percent relating to the private sector. [as received]

In the four-page document, signed by CGT Leader Saul Ubaldini, the CGT denounces a pact between the government and speculative business sector and it notes that the cost of the family basket has increased 59 percent during the enforcement of the so-called (government) anti-inflation plan.

The CGT document questions the speech that the president delivered on the morning of 17 January and charges Alfonsin with saying that the country is on the path of economic recovery, while we are experiencing incredible unemployment figures. It also charges that Alfonsin has not explained the strategy to be used to terminate the stagnation of the national economy.

The CGT adds that "just as the real possibilities of the country are not limited by the stagnant and committed views of the demands of international usurers that this government adopts as if they were the only alternatives," adding that the Argentine labor movement has never limited itself to merely making demands and nothing more.

It states that the present enemies of the nation are not those who are demanding just and reasonable salary increases, to enable the people to cope better, but those who are implementing recessive policies and allotting a large volume of the fruit of our work to satisfy the unbearable demands of foreign usurers.

The CGT notes that since 1983, real salaries have decreased by 34 percent and now require a 51-percent readjustment to reach the level they had attained before the Alfonsin administration. It adds that during the enforcement of the Austral Plan, salaries experienced another loss and that this calls for an indispensable readjustment of 28 percent.

According to the CGT, the president ignores the fact that the CGT has requested the Socioeconomic Council to at least restore the salary level we enjoyed before the implementation of the so-called Austral Plan because the 5 percent that has been offered by the government and the 5-percent production bonus are ridiculous offers in comparison to the increase that the cost of living has experienced in the past few months.

This is the situation which we oppose, because we have the right to do so and because ours is a just demand. It is surprising that the man who is governing the nation should have understood this only after the CGT, because of the government's indifference, decreed a general strike in an effort to change that intolerable situation, the CGT warned.

The CGT added that workers will go on strike to allow the country to start moving forward with their demands and their sacrifice. The document expressed the hope that during the strike the president will meditate on what he promised in 1983 and what he is arrogantly and in an authoritarian manner offering us.

To govern is not to give alms. To govern is to create jobs. Alms degrade. Only by giving people jobs will it be possible to overcome poverty and ignominy and preserve human dignity, the CGT document stressed. The labor organization also criticized the permanent neglect of coparticipation and industrial development.

The CGT added that the government is doing with the foreign debt what it is asking us to do with our salary problem: To express our demands and to withstand the pressure from the representatives of international usurers. Since this attempt has failed, the government is using the only resources available for repaying the debt, while it is borrowing more to continue repaying. On top of this, the government states that it is proud of the way it has defended our economic sovereignty, the document concludes.

/12232

CSO: 3348/372

ARGENTINA

TRADE SECRETARY ATTACKS DEBT INHERITANCE

PY152319 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Jan 86 p 3

[Text] (NA)--Industry and Foreign Trade Secretary Roberto Lavagna yesterday said the two biggest efforts undertaken by the radical administration so far have been paying foreign debt interests and fighting inflation.

Speaking at a downtown hotel during a meeting organized by the Americas Society, Lavagna blasted the foreign debt which "was worked up under the shroud of an unconstitutional period" and which lacks any economic or social justification.

Lavagna described the Austral Plan as "a programme made up of orthodox and heterodox elements, the latter helping to minimize social costs." He also stressed that "the scepticism of certain internal minority sectors and of some international bureaucracies, adverse to intellectual innovation, had to be confronted" in order to successfully launch the plan last June.

Regarding the country's battered economy, Lavagna said that although Argentina "may assume the degree of responsibility it deserves, we cannot deny that growth is conditioned to an international framework which is unfavourable for a number of reasons."

The main reason is the high level of international interest rates, which have doubled since the post-war years, Lavagna said.

High interest rates are undoubtedly related to the U.S. fiscal deficit, Lavagna further claimed, "which has become a fund-draining market rather than, as it logically should be, a generator of resources for development."

He also criticized the international community's "slow perception of the character of the foreign debt, since it has taken 3 years to understand its dimension as not just economic but also social and political. [Quotation marks as received]

/12232

CSO: 3348/372

ARGENTINA

OFFICERS MAY TESTIFY IN FRG ARMS SALE TRIAL

PY150156 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 January (NA)--The Argentine Army and Defense Ministry have not commented on a press report from Dusseldorf, FRG, about the possibility of some Argentine generals being summoned to court in the trial in that city of four directors of the German Company Rheinmetall who are accused of having illegally sold weapons to Argentina, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia.

However, a reliable Defense Ministry source admitted that this subject is being discussed among high-ranking officials in this ministry.

According to the press report, the dealers violated weapon-export laws by selling weapons to countries in areas of tension. In the case of Argentina, they allegedly sold twin antiaircraft cannons and 20 and 27 caliber automatic cannons.

Once in Argentina, where the cannons arrived after having changed ships in Spain, these artillery parts were installed on "TAM" tanks (Light Argentine Tanks) and "UCTP" vehicles (All-Purpose Attack Unit) which are the Argentine version of the German "Leopard I" and "Marder."

According to press reports, only a few of them were intended for the Argentine Armed Forces, while the rest were intended for Pakistan, Libya and Syria, countries to which German law prohibits the export of war materiel.

/12232

CSO: 3348/372

ARGENTINA

ARMY CLAIMS LAST COBRA M-2000 MISSILE

PY212321 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1855 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 January (TELAM)--Prefect Miguel Angel Gil, Control, Average, and Fire Division head of the Argentine Naval Prefecture, has reported that the missile found in the River Plate Estuary, near the northern tip of Jorge Newbery International Airport, was made in Argentina and belongs to the Argentine Army.

Speaking to TELAM, Gil said that the missile was identified by army Arsenal Command personnel who identified it and said that it belonged to the army.

Gil explained that in no way could the missile belong to any other branch because it is a "surface-to-surface" missile, that is, a ground missile.

The military device, which was found last Saturday barely 10 meters away from a retaining wall, in the river in the Buenos Aires metropolitan area, consists of three elements: the fuse, the stabilizing fin, and the head or nose cone.

The fact that wire-guided missile Cobra M-2000 PRAS was written on one of the parts, helped with the identification. It was explained that M-2000 means 2,000-meter maximum range.

When the Control, Average, and Fire Division personnel retrieved the missile from the river--where it was partially buried--they noted that it was only used for training purposes.

Gil said that the rescue operation was carried out on Saturday at 2030 when, as a result of the low level of the river, a man had discovered the missile, while fishing.

According to Gil, it is likely that the missile was lost during a ground exercise conducted by the army, and that the wind finally dragged it into the river.

Gil concluded by stating that at this time the appropriate paperwork is being done and that finally the missile will be delivered to army authorities.

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CSO: 3348/372

ARGENTINA

CAVALRY MAJOR ORDERED DETAINED

PY201518 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Jan 86

[Text] Parana, 16 January (TELAM)--The commander of the Second Armored Cavalry Brigade, General Francisco Obdulio Dalessandri, has imposed a 30 day detention on Major Julio Santiago Cantero who paid homage to former military President Jorge Rafael Videla during a military ceremony held in Concordia on 14 January.

Major Cantero, chief of the No 2 Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron stationed in Concordia, delivered a speech during a ceremony held to deactivate his military unit on orders from the national government. Major Cantero harshly criticized the government decision saying that this and similar measures are opening the way for the reappearance of those who carry red flags.

The ceremony, held in the squadron's headquarters, was attended by Municipal Council President Luis Moix (Justicialist Party), and by General Dalessandri, who conveyed to Governor Sergio Montiel his decision to arrest Major Cantero.

Dalessandri told Montiel that this case is under the consideration of the army chief of staff, General Rios Erenu and severe action could be taken against Major Cantero.

During the ceremony, Cantero read a decree signed by former President Jorge Rafael Videla, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment, and paid homage to him.

The Concordia Cavalry Squadron was founded in 1964 in Gualetguaychu and transferred to Concordia in 1979. Its deactivation is part of a reorganization of the armed forces ordered by President Raul Alfonsin.

/12232

CSO: 3348/372

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

ARMORED CAVALRY SQUADRON DISSOLVED--Salta, 28 December (TELAM)--Within the framework of the first stage of reorganizing the army, Armored Cavalry Squadron 141 Colonel Gorriti was dissolved in Salta today. The squadron's personnel and equipment will join Ranger Armored Cavalry Detachment 141 General Guemes which is also based in Salta. [Excerpts] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1858 GMT 28 Dec 85 PY] /12232

ANTI-AUSTRAL PLAN CAMPAIGN--Buenos Aires, 14 January (DYN)--A Peronist group made up of businessmen linked to the defunct General Economic Confederation today launched a campaign against the Austral Plan and the payment of the large foreign debt by pasting up wall posters. The poster, bearing the signature of the previously unknown organization "Argentine Youth for a Better Argentina," depicts a child asking: "Dear fatherland, give me a president like Alan Garcia." The poster has been pasted up throughout downtown Buenos Aires and in the main railroad terminals. The Peronist group will conduct an advertising campaign against the Austral Plan, the governmental policy for refinancing the foreign debt, and the Justicialist economists, like Roberto Lavagna, who were recently appointed to the Economy Ministry. The poster, which is very large and printed in blue and white, refers to President Alan Garcia and the policy established by the Peruvian Government vis-a-vis the IMF and the creditor banks, allocating only 10 percent of its export revenues to the payment of the country's foreign commitments. [Text] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2339 GMT 14 Jan 86 PY] /12232

CSO: 3348/372

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

FIRST ALL-BRAZILIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION--The "Professor (Bernard)", an oceanographic ship owned by the University of Sao Paulo, will reach the Paranagua port area in northern Paranagua state at 1930. The ship left Santos port for the Antarctic continent at 1130 carrying 23 crewmen, 17 scientists, and 5 tons of food and water. This is the first time Brazil has undertaken an Antarctic mission entirely by itself. All the specifications established by the International Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research have been complied with. Studies on sea bottom fish and animal life will, for the first time receive as much attention as Krill research. Scientific research on Krill will also continue. It has been reported that the ship will return to Santos on 12 March. [By Roberto Souza] [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Jan 86 PY] /12913

TELEVISION EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN--The Education Ministry begins today a campaign known as Education for Everyone. It will be broadcast over television channels throughout the country. Elementary Education Secretary Aloisio Sotero said the objective of the campaign is to promote Brazil's transformation through education. [Summary] [Brasilia Radio Nacional Amazonia in Portuguese 0900 GMT 13 Jan 86 PY] /12913

CSO: 3342/60

CHILE

REPORT ON KENNEDY'S VISIT, REACTION

Clergy's Reaction

PY141311 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2058 GMT 13 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Santiago, 13 January (EFE)--U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy's visit to Chile, announced for 15 January, has created controversies not only at the political level but also among the clergy.

The latest comments have been made by Msgr Tomas Gonzalez, the bishop of Punta Arenas, 2,800 km south of Santiago, who said that if he had been in Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno's position, he would have received the U.S. politician in a special audience.

Msgr Fresno recently said that he will not receive Kennedy because "a politician should speak with other politicians, and I am not a politician."

Cardinal Fresno's decision has been harshly criticized by the Chilean opposition, and even inside the church itself.

A prominent member of the Chilean Catholic Church told EFE today that "the cardinal, who today refuses to interfere in political matters, is the same man who called on the politicians to agree on the National Accord, which is a political platform."

Cardinal Fresno was also against Senator Kennedy's use of the Catholic Solidarity Vicariate Office for an interview with human rights organizations, asserting that "the senator should rent a hotel room" for that.

When the organizers of Kennedy's visit learned about Cardinal Fresno's comments, they announced that the senator would not use the offices of the Vicariate, but the offices of the Chilean Commission for Human Rights, where he would meet the relatives of missing persons and of political prisoners.

Slum Dwellers' Protest

PY141931 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Independent Democratic Union [UDI] members and slum dwellers have expressed their firm rejection of U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy's visit in a

demonstration at the pedestrian overpass on Costanera Avenue. The leaders said that they will stage as many demonstrations as possible against Kennedy's visit, according to leader [not further identified] Jaime Pizarro said. [Recorded passage by Pizarro indistinct]

Pizarro said that the demonstrators will gather tomorrow in the Comodoro Arturo Benitez Airport to express their rejection of Edward Kennedy's visit in Chile.

APF Reports On Speech

PY161237 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 16 Jan 86

[Text] Santiago, 15 January (AFP)--U.S. Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy tonight made a fervent call to all Chileans asking them to return their country to democracy. Kennedy spoke to approximately 1,000 persons, who applauded him, at a private club in Santiago.

The congressman, who is making a 24-hour visit to Chile, told his audience at the Spanish Circle that we must get together and we must help each other so that Chile can quickly, very quickly, return to democracy.

Kennedy said that the United States can stage demonstrations, acts of protest and implement embargoes, but that it will definitively have to be the Chilean people who will finally reconquer the light and democracy.

We can do something in the U.S. Senate, but you will have to carry the weight of the responsibility, you Chileans. Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are examples of how to return to democracy, he added.

In another part of his address the U.S. politician said that we must obtain Lincoln's dream: Government of the people, for the people and by the people.

He recalled his last, and only other visit to Chile 20 years ago, saying that he had found a free and happy people, where human rights were respected and when an enormous task of getting the country out of poverty was being started.

He then referred to his recent trip to Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina, and said that these countries which have recently returned to democracy are examples of how to re-establish democracy peacefully.

Kennedy lauded the National Accord as an instrument that can be used for a return to democracy and the task of national reconciliation that has been started by the Chilean Catholic Church through Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno.

In this respect, he said that Cardinal Fresno's call for national reconciliation and the National Accord are the declarations of independence that will outline the future and the prospects for building a nation without poverty and degradation.

Referring to the incidents that occurred upon his arrival, when he was blockaded in the airport for 2 hours by people who support General Augusto Pinochet's regime, Kennedy compared the incidents with his recent trip to South Africa.

He said that both in South Africa and Chile it is the mercenaries that carry out this type of action and that after 7 days in South Africa he got to know these people by name. He said that they were always the same people and that they were able to travel very quickly from one point to another.

In another part of his address, which was followed by hundreds of journalists and correspondents, he said that the foreign debt is one of the continent's greatest problems.

We cannot replace one dictatorship, he said, for a dictatorship of the foreign debt, which is a great burden for the Latin American nations.

While Kennedy was speaking groups of his supporters, who were gathered outside the Spanish Circle waiting for the senator to leave were dispersed by the water cannons of the Carabineros militarized police.

Counterdemonstrators that were grouped not far away repudiated the U.S. politician's presence in Chile with shouts, while the police on foot, and in helicopters looked the other way.

Kennedy Meets With AD, Socialists

PY162125 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The cases of Orlando Letelier and General Prats, who were murdered in Washington and Buenos Aires, respectively, was one of the main issues discussed by Edward Kennedy with members of the Democratic Alliance [AD] and the socialist group.

Luis Maria, a member of the socialist group who met with Kennedy, commented on Kennedy's speech demonstrators on Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue.

[Begin Maria recording] First of all, his speech reminded me of when there was democracy in Chile, when the president mixed with the people to learn about their concerns through direct contact with the people and workers. Second, it was a meeting with the people. He came to this country and found people gathered wherever he went. When he talked with them, he was able to get the feeling of freedom and democracy the Chilean people have, which is part of our history and will be part of our future. [end recording]

A lawyer in Chile works on the Letelier case. Her name is Fabiola Letelier, and she is the sister of the man murdered in Washington. She reported on her conversation with Kennedy.

[Begin Letelier recording] During Kennedy's meeting with the different human rights organizations, he expressed his interest in the situation of the Letelier case in Chile. That question was asked directly to me. I explained to him the legal aspects of the Letelier case in the military court. Kennedy now knows that an appeal has been made to the military court, which will make its decision next March. Also, during Kennedy's meeting with the AD and the socialist group, these political forces explained to him their interest in the Letelier case. [end recording]

Kennedy promised to send all the background material on the Letelier case available in Washington as well as information on the other cases.

[Begin Letelier recording] This case not only affects Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Moffet but also, as you well know, it affects General Prats and his wife, and the attack on Bernardo Leighton and Anita Fresno de Leighton, in Italy. This is a case of state terrorism, terrorists acts committed not only in Washington, but also in Buenos Aires and Italy. [end recording]

Kennedy Summarizes Visit

PY161414 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1314 GMT 16 Jan 86

[Live relay from the Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport by reporter Patricio Powell at 1314 GMT]

[Text] The Aeroperu airplane which will carry U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy to Lima is ready to take off, and so Senator Kennedy ends his brief visit to our country.

Shortly before boarding the plane, Senator Kennedy held a press conference here at the airport.

During the press conference, which began late, Senator Kennedy mainly spoke about human rights and the peaceful return to democracy. Before answering questions he read a declaration in which he mainly summarized the list of people he met here and who are mainly political, religious, labor, and education sector representatives.

Kennedy only answered four or five questions, but his responses were lengthy. The most outstanding answer was to a question about whether, in the future, he would recommend new measures regarding Chile, (it must be recalled that Kennedy proposed the amendment that forbids U.S. military aid to our country). Kennedy replied that in the next few days there might be some news [as heard] and he added that he has been greatly influenced by the opinions he heard during this visit to Chile by the representatives of the parties that signed the National Accord Document.

He was also asked about what (?evaluation) [word indistinct] about the talks he held with the Catholic Church representatives, to which he simply replied that he was very pleased at having talked with Cardinal Silva with whom he has been acquainted for a long time. He said he enjoyed talking to Cardinal Silva who brought him a note from Cardinal Fresno which he qualified as positive.

In the international field, Kennedy was asked about the U.S.-Cuban relations, and he said that he opposes restoring the Washington-Havana relations. He also said that he was able to see [as heard] the release of some Cuban political prisoners and that he will continue working for this same objective.

We reiterate that Kennedy's press conference was held behind schedule and that he answered only four or five questions because he first read a declaration in

which he reiterated some of the aspects he had announced upon arriving to Chile yesterday morning. He also mentioned the people with whom he met yesterday mainly at the Spanish Circle in Santiago. He said that he thought that his visit was very short but positive.

The Aeroperu plane carrying Senator Kennedy and his entourage to Lima is still on the runway preparing to depart.

/12232

CSO: 3348/370

CHILE

BRIEFS

AMPHIBIOUS CARS TO ANTARCTIC--Three amphibious cars, each weighing 17 tons, have been loaded in a Navy barge. They will be sent to Teniente Marsh Base in the Antarctic. One of the cars belongs to a PRC base in Antarctica. The three cars were loaded in the "Rancagua" barge at the San Mateo Beach in Valparaiso. (Chen Chung Li), assistant to the PRC military attache, observed the operation. [Text] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Jan 85 PY] /12232

NEW JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION--The National Journalists Association repudiated today the creation of a new association of journalists, saying that the objective of the new organization is purely political. Ignacio Gonzalez Camus, president of the National Journalists Association, played down the creation of the new organization. He added that this type of organization exists only on paper and never accomplishes anything. The new association of journalists was officially established in an official bulletin today. Although the principles of the new organization are not known, it has been reported that it has 43 members and is headed by Humberto Candia Nieto, who acts as president; (Exequiel Gasc) as vice president; and Jorge Morgado as secretary general. Ignacio Gonzalez Camus indicated that by creating a new parallel organization, the government has the clear intention of dividing journalists. [Excerpts] [Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Jan 86 PY] /12232

POLITICIAN CRITICIZES PR MEMBERS--Reactions to the National Accord are also being heard outside the country [words indistinct]. Jaime Tormo, the president of Radical Democracy, has reacted to statements made in Mendoza [Argentina] by Anselmo Sule and Carlos Morales, both members of the Radical Accord because the communists were excluded. Sule and Morales, who warned about the possibility of the PR's leaving the Accord, had violently attacked the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], one of the main signatories of the document. The statements against the spirit of the National Accord were made by Sule and Morales in disregard of a meeting between PR members and party leaders, which was held outside Chile. Jaime Tormo, who has a long political tradition among radicals against Sule and Morales, said that under the Popular Unity Administration the position advocated by Sule and Morales was wrong and that he is concerned because they are still wrong. Tormo recalled having warned of the danger of communist infiltration into the PR. Tormo said that the only issue in which he agreed with Morales is that the only great adversary the PR has is the PDC. Tormo also warned the PDC to take measures against communist infiltration, which is always directed at powerful democratic forces. He said that this is what happened to the PR, which is 100 years old, and that the same thing can happen to the PDC [Text] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 20 Jan 86 PY] /12232

CSO: 3348/271

GRENADA

GAIRY CAPITALIZES AS AGRICULTURE UNION FOUNDERS

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Jan 86 p 13

[Article by Devonson La Mothe]

[Excerpt]

IN Grenada, the strike in the agricultural industry which began on October 1 is now entering its third month. And as if by mutual agreement, in recent times, both sides in the dispute, the Grenada Government and private farm owners on one hand and the Grenada Manual Maritime and Intellectual Workers Union (GMMIWU) on the other, have been making very few public pronouncements about the strike.

During the early days of the strike many people were afraid that there would be violent eruptions and conflagrations. Their fears were based mainly on their knowledge of Mr. Gairy's past reputation. But eruptions and conflagrations, which would have given the **Blaise** government a severe test of its will and intelligence, in a moment of crisis, have so far not come.

This is due mainly to Mr. Gairy's age as well as the age of most of his supporters. Mr. Gairy is now sixty and most of his supporters are over forty.

Many observers felt that a quick loss here for Mr. Gairy would have been a severe blow to whatever is still left of his political career. But now with the

prolongation of the strike for over two months, there seems little chance that a loss for Mr. Gairy in this struggle would do much to lessen his popularity among his supporters.

And some of the developments in the trade union movement in Grenada over the last two years makes interesting reading. Before October 25, 1983 most agricultural workers in Grenada were represented by one of Grenada's largest unions, a union known as the Agricultural and General Workers Union (AGWU). This union was led by **Fitzroy Bain**, a staunch supporter of the **Bishop** Government.

Mr. Bain was one of those persons who perished at Fort Rupert with Maurice Bishop, three of his ministers and other supporters on October 19, 1983.

After the American invasion and during the rule of the Interim Government, AGWU, as well as many other things, was thought to need to be purged of communist "contamination". To deal with the trade unions, the Americans sent to Grenada a man known as **Charlie Wood**.

Mr. Wood, an official of the American Institute for Free Labour Development (AIFLD), came to Grenada as a special adviser to the Grenada Labour Movement, especially by way of seminars. Mr. Wood decided to replace AGWU by setting up his own rival union. This he did in March 1984. He named the new union the Agricultural and Allied Workers Union (AAWU).

It seemed that this set-up gradually lost the trust of most of its members. Operation AAWU folded up when most of its officers and members resigned from the union in September of this year. Apparently the workers had come to the conclusion that the Agricultural and Allied Workers Union was an employers' union. They complained that Mr. Wood had been concentrating quite a lot of his attention

on trying to convince them that they should agree to wage decreases.

In one of its publications of June this year, the *Grenada Guardian* carried a front page story about the internal wranglings inside AAWU under the caption "Charlie Wood's Union". A section of that article read thus: "Workers are now planning to picket Wood's office and residence in protest against this undue and illegal interference in our national affairs, and to demonstrate against his presence in Grenada."

"The consensus is that Wood is taking advantage of our national hospitality."

And Mr. Gairy's union benefitted from AAWU's internal problems. Mr. Gairy was able to capitalise on this to recruit workers for his union.

/9274

CSO: 3298/280

GUYANA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PRE-ELECTION SPEECHES, ACTIVITIES

Chandisingh on Socialist Progress

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 85 pp 4-5

[Text]

The many achievements under PNC Government are "the results of the practical and purposeful application of our socialist ideology, the objective of which is to provide a better life for all our people," Cde. Ranji Chandisingh said Sunday night.

"The way ahead requires the intelligent application of the socialist ideology if Guyana's development in the interest of the masses is to be assured," Cde Chandisingh said in the fourth election broadcast by the PNC.

The way ahead "requires also a Party with the ability, capacity and will to guide and motivate such development. Our Party... has demonstrated its capacity and maturity over the years to provide such leadership," the PNC candidate and General Secretary said.

The PNC is seeking again the mandate first given by the people in 1964 and renewed in 1968, 1973 and 1980, he said.

"Twenty-one years ago", he noted "with the astute guidance of Guyana's greatest son and hero—Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham—we started to carry out your mandate.

"We Guyanese regained our confidence as a people—proud of our heritage, assured of our ability to manage our affairs and determined to fashion a society in which there would be equality of opportunity for all Guyanese to participate in the political, economic and social life of our country.

"Above all, as a Party for all our people, the People's National Congress brought peace to our country. Since then, we, as a people, have continued to enjoy the benefits of a peaceful, stable society that is so necessary for our development."

The PNC General Secretary stressed the socialist nature of the Party.

"As a Party which gains its power and authority from, and whose support is rooted in the masses, our programmes and policies have been directed towards promoting and safeguarding the people's interests," he said.

The PNC candidate stated that the promotion of the people's interests has led to:

- The ownership and control by the Guyanese people of the strategic sectors of our economy;
- the implementation of free education from nursery to university;

- the establishment of a medical training programme to produce doctors trained in our own environment;

- the provision of opportunities for participation by the people at all levels of the decision-making process through the system of local democracy;

- a programme of economic recovery based on the maximum use of our natural resources and the provision of greater opportunities for employment including self-employment, and

- our active role in the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth and Caricom.

He stressed: "For us, socialism is not empty rhetoric, the mindless adherence to sterile dogma, or blind copying of models unsuited to our circumstances. The objective conditions must determine how the general principles of socialism are to be applied in our country.

"At this stage of our development this implies a struggle against poverty, ignorance, unemployment, hunger, exploitation, discrimination and imperialism in all its forms and manifestations.

"Equally, it implies a struggle for self-reliance,

improved conditions, total emancipation from the shackles of our colonial past, and for high production and efficiency.

"My Party's ideology gives us a sense of direction in striving for greater material and spiritual benefits for our people and providing for the meaningful participation of all our people, who are loyal, dedicated and committed to building a prosperous and humane society in Guyana."

He stressed that, basically, the Party's

socialist ideology prompts us to mobilise our people for greater production and higher levels of productivity. For socialism, as our Founder-Leader often reminded us, is not about the distribution of poverty, rather, it is about the creation of wealth and its equitable distribution.

"Our ability to expand the range of social and economic benefits to our people would depend on the level of wealth generated by our society as a whole."

Cde Chandisingh noted that measures which have

been put in place to increase self-sufficiency in food, to generate economic growth based on maximum use of domestic resources, and to bring all-round development, "have helped us to avoid some of the worst effects of the world economic crisis."

He said it was with "a feeling of confidence and, at the same time, with humility, that I ask you to renew your mandate to the People's National Congress and let progress nationwide continue." (GNA)

United Force Candidate

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 85 p 4

[Text]

UNITED Force national candidate for the December 9 elections, Michael Abraham, Sunday night called on Guyanese to vote for capitalism.

"You have experienced the evils of socialism and communism. The United Force will fight for strict control of scarce foreign exchange and will give you a prudent business-like Government," the candidate said.

"This may be your last chance to vote for a Party whose philosophy you want," he said without elaborating as he delivered his party's first of two party political broadcasts on the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC).

A vote for the Sun, the UF symbol, Abraham said, is a vote for "investments providing industrialisation and jobs", for "security, sanctity and happiness," "for healthy and vigorous competition in our market, for better quality goods, for lower prices, for a lower cost of living."

He said: "The United Force has the tools, we have the influence to attract U.S. dollars."

The party candidate also stated that a United Force Government is committed as "a matter of priority and urgency" to "return to you" wheat flour, milk, cheese and split peas.

In addition, he said, "a United Force Government would disband the National Service, the Militia, severely restrict the Army and scrap the Ministry of National Development.

"This would leave resources to be allocated to the Police Force and to pay your minimum wage of \$25 a day. Your vote for the Sun tells us that you want a better equipped and a more satisfied Police Force," he said.

Criticising socialist policies, which he said are embraced by the PNC, PPP, and WPA, Abraham asked: "After 20 years of PNC rule, can we all proudly tell the world that today our country is the richest in the Caribbean? In Latin America?"

"This socialist Government," he said, "is plagued with corruption, bribery, kickbacks, pay-offs and all forms of dishonesty. Socialism and communism is responsible for this. Reject

the PNC, PPP and WPA's socialism and communism which breeds shortages etcetera. Your United Force vote will return honesty to Government."

The UF candidate also said "PNC's policies and its doctrine of paramouncy" have "chased away from our shores our best brains and the thousands of Guyanese now happily residing in the USA and Canada."

These Guyanese "have run away from socialism and taken refuge in capitalism," he said.

The candidate, a UF Member of Parliament in the last National Assembly, said "largely responsible for socialism in this country" is the question of "race."

"If Guyanese had not voted race in 1964, the United Force would have been the Government today and Guyana would have been the wealthiest nation in the Caribbean and in South America. Your highway to Lethem would have been a reality years ago," he said.

Abraham said that Guyanese should not "repeat the mistake of 1964. Let us forget race and vote

for policy. Let us vote for the United Force."

The United Force, he stressed, is committed to capitalism. "Our capitalism is not of the exploitative type. Ours is called free enterprise or people's capitalism. It is free enterprise that built such businesses as Banks, D.I.H., and Continental Biscuit Company."

The party candidate promised a United Force Government would "run this country in the way Banks, D.I.H. or Conbisco is run, along purely business-like lines. Such a method of running a Government will have no place for political patronage, fraud or corruption. Reward and promotion will be given only on merit and performance, he said.

Trade Union Support for PNC

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 85 pp 1, 4

[Text]

REPRESENTATIVES of several trade unions addressed by President Desmond Hoyte yesterday have pledged "full support" for the People's National Congress at the forthcoming elections.

In a resolution, passed unanimously at the Guyana Teachers' Union hall, where President Hoyte met some 300 representatives of eight unions, the trade unionists noted the "significant benefits" received by workers under the PNC Government.

Yesterday's meeting was the first of a series expected to be held, involving other unions and representatives of the Government and Party, Chairman Seelo Baichan, TUC executive member said.

President Hoyte said the PNC has throughout the years worked closely with trade unions.

"That is a fact. It is also inevitable because the People's National Congress is a working class movement. It was originated from the working class ... it derives its power and its mandate from the working class."

And the PNC has "been in the forefront, giving guidance and inspiration to

the workers as they seek to create a better life for themselves," Cde. Hoyte added, to applause from the gathering.

The President and Leader of the PNC also dealt with the importance of peace to the workers' continued welfare, the standing of other political parties and the question of wages negotiations as part of the relationship between the Trade Union Movement and Government.

Cde. Hoyte said peace is "a fundamental condition for progress and development."

The late Founder-Leader of the PNC left conditions of peace in which Guyanese could continue the progress which he initiated, Cde. Hoyte said, adding that he has given assurance to the various social and other organisations he has met that the peace would be maintained.

The impact of the Government's commitment to maintaining peace has been manifest in the kind of support the PNC has been receiving, the President said.

The people are seeing that "the work of our Founder-Leader was not ephemeral, that it is going to endure," he observed.

The Founder-Leader of the

PNC, he said, "destroyed racial politics in this country... he removed us from the politics of confrontation." The people, he said, now have the choice of saying whether the country moves forward in politics of co-operation and consensus or slides back into politics of confrontation.

He later assured the union representatives that the PNC is offering the people peace and development.

On the question of wages, Cde. Hoyte said: "We the People's National Congress are always with the workers. The record is clear." The Party has never said 'not a cent more' to the workers.

Instead, the policy has always been one of 'let us sit down and reason.'

"It is that humane approach, that respect for the working people that led to the harmonious conclusion of the 1985-86 wages package with the TUC," he said.

"Of course, it doesn't make the workers millionaires. I'm sure people look forward to more," he said. However, the agreement represented "an agreed package," the TUC could accept and propose to affiliates.

The President said that the PNC "has a record of being with the workers in their struggle at all times "In the good times ... In the bad times ... we're always there."

The resolution in support of the Party at the elections was moved by Winston Bruce of the Guyana Electricity Corporation Senior Staff Association and seconded by Cde. G. Munisar of the Postal and Telecommunication Workers' Union.

The eight unions represented at yesterday afternoon's meeting were the Manpower Citizens Association, Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisors Union, General Workers Union, Guyana Public Service Union, Guyana Postal and Telecommunication Workers' Union, GEC Senior Staff Association, Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, and Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union. (GNA)

Tennessee Remarks "

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 85 pp 4-5

[Text]

LEADER and Presidential Candidate of the DLM, Paul Tennessee said Monday night his party proposes radical changes if it wins the December 9 elections.

"The programme of the DLM is one to rebuild our political system, our communities, the economy and refocus our foreign policy," he said in the single political party broadcast allocated to the party in the election campaign.

The DLM, he said, wants "a new constitution which will reduce the powers of the Presidency" and will "ensure that the President and Prime Minister cannot hold office for more than two consecutive periods."

In addition, the party proposes "drastic reduction of ministries," and "guarantees for human rights."

Explaining the origins of the DLM, the Party Leader said it "had as its forerunner in 1982 the Right to Work Association," and since last year has held dozens of meetings to "encourage Guyanese to struggle for free and fair elections."

DLM also sought solidarity for its campaign in Western Europe, North America, the Caribbean and Latin America.

The DLM, he stated, "is a democratic, nationalist, anti-racist, anti-dictatorial, political movement of workers, farmers and youths in alliance with professionals and business people."

Guyana "has never had a genuine, rational, effective and democratic centre party. The DLM is a democratic centre party which can contribute effectively to nation-building and the democratic alternative we so need in our society today," the DLM candidate said.

Among the promises the DLM plans to implement if it wins elections, Tennessee said, are the application of "strict economic principles" in the administration of industries, respect for the "autonomous nature of economic enterprises, a referendum on state ownership if State-owned industries do not perform profitably, importation of food and spare parts

"without State intervention," and restoration of "the small shops and (making) goods available for sale."

He also promised "generous incentives to local industry" complete control of the rice industry by rice farmers, incentives to the gold industry, and expansion of the forest industry.

Tennessee said: "The construction of a democratic and economically viable nation State is not easy in a world today, which is competitive, complex, contradictory and changing."

"But there are reasons for hope," he said adding that during the Lome Convention Brussels Meeting, Western Europeans were concerned about Guyana's economic development and human rights.

The Lome Convention is an example that if the

most powerful nations are willing to have dialogue, consult and negotiate with smaller nations, then the development objectives of small countries, like Guyana, (do) not necessarily have to be undermined, he declared.

"But we also have the responsibility of shouldering our liberation and development. The DLM firmly believes that one day, food, work and freedom will exist in Guyana. Our faith in freedom day is unshakeable."

The DLM candidate urged that Guyanese vote for his party, for the symbol of the hand with a star at centre.

"The DLM promises that in a free and fair election in this country, if you vote DLM ... and we become the Government, we will return the small shops with all the food we used to have before ... vote for food, work, freedom."

Jagan, Hoyte Letters

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 85 pp 4-5

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte has responded to a letter from Minority Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan who had urged him to withhold assent to the Representation of the People [Amendment] Bill No. 15 of 1985.

The Bill, which was passed in the National Assembly on October 25, abolished postal voting and severely restricted overseas and proxy voting. The PPP, which had been advocating these amendments, surprisingly voted against the Bill. That decision was described by Cde. Hoyte as "Incomprehensible and inexplicable."

And, in his response to Dr. Jagan's letter, Cde. Hoyte, stressing that he could not "and still cannot" find a rational basis for Dr. Jagan's behaviour, added: "But frankly, at this stage, I have given up trying to do so."

Following are the texts of Dr. Jagan's letter dated 1985-10-28 and Cde. Hoyte's response dated 1985-11-18.

Dear Cde. President,

In keeping with your powers under Article 170 of the Constitution I am requesting that you withhold assent to the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, No. 15 of 1985 which was rushed through at one sitting of the National Assembly on Friday, October 25.

My reasons for making this request are based on the following -

(i) The Bill was dated October 12 but was not made available to M.P.'s and the public until its first reading on October 17. The Official Gazette of that

period was also not available. And there was no attempt by the media to inform the public about the various aspects, especially the complicated system of voting which is proposed for the security forces. Nor was there any opportunity for discussion over G.B.S. Thus, there has not been an adequate opportunity for the public to become aware of the various implications of the Bill.

(ii) The Elections Commission, which has constitutional responsibilities over the matters dealt with in the Bill, was not consulted.

(iii) The PPP had requested orally and in writing a deferment of the Bill for a short period to give time for consideration around the table of all its ramifications, either in a Select Committee of the House or at a specially summoned PPP/ PNC meeting in the on-going talks. On Friday morning before Parliament met, I approached several leading members of the Government, and the ruling party, including the acting President and the first Vice President; and, in the House itself, I approached other leading members of Government, repeating my request for a deferment, if even for three days, but unsuccessfully.

It is hoped that you will use your high office and accede to my request to you to delay your assent until sufficient time has been given for a broad consultation in keeping with the general quest for compromise and accord which was initiated early this year.

Yours sincerely,
Cheddi Jagan.

The President's Reply

November 18, 1985.

My Dear Dr. Jagan,

Many thanks for your letter of 20th October 1985, requesting that I delay assent to the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act No. 15 of 1985.

I regret exceedingly that I could not accede to your request. While I am always

willing to give much weight to your representations, I could not accept that, in all the circumstances, your request was a reasonable one.

In the first place, it is not true to say that the Bill "was rushed through at one sitting of the National Assembly on Friday October 25". In fact, your second paragraph contradicts this

allegation in that you admit that the Bill was made available to Members of Parliament at its first reading of October 17th. The time prescribed by Standing Orders for the second and third readings of the Bill after its introduction was in no way abridged. Indeed, the provisions of the Standing Orders were complied with faithfully.

You would recall that

some weeks before the Bill was introduced, I had given you notice of my intention to effect the amendments to the principal Act in response to your repeated calls, both inside and outside of the National Assembly, for the said changes in our electoral laws. Moreover, I had indicated my intention to the Guyanese people in my address to the Nation on October 6, 1985. I am therefore, puzzled by the fact that you had a problem in accepting the amendments.

The Bill was quite simple and straightforward. I cannot understand what difficulty anybody could conceivably have in understanding it. Notwithstanding your statement to the contrary, the system proposed for voting by the Security Forces is not at all complicated: it merely gives a

member of the Security Forces four options for exercising his constitutional right to vote. Obviously, he can only use one of them. The one he selects would undoubtedly be the one most convenient to him, depending on where he will be posted and what his duties are likely to be on election day. You may recall that when I first discussed with you my proposal for introducing the amending legislation, I made the point that we had to bear in mind the need for a provision to ensure that certain categories of citizens, such as members of the security forces on duty on election day and election officials, could exercise their right to vote. Indeed, you quickly appreciated the point and remarked you did not wish to disenfranchise any voter.

I confess that I was deeply disappointed when I

heard, while I was in The Bahamas, that you and your Party had voted against the Amendments. I could not — and still cannot — find a rational basis for your behaviour. But frankly, at this stage, I have given up trying to do so.

With kind regards,
Yours co-operatively,
H.D. Hoyte
President.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The options open to members of the security forces for exercising their franchise [referred to by Cde. Hoyte in his response] are: balloting in person on December 9 or voting on the special day [December 3] set aside for the specified security forces or balloting by proxy or balloting overseas if on duty in a foreign country.

More on Union Support for PNC

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 85 pp 1, 4

[Text]

FIVE trade unions — including The Guyana Labour Union and The Guyana Teachers' Union — yesterday came out in support of the People's National Congress led by President Desmond Hoyte.

Yesterday's pledges of support given at a workers' rally at the GLU office, Camp Street, brought to 17 the number of local trade unions which have openly declared their support for the PNC at the forthcoming general and regional elections.

In a resolution unanimously passed at yesterday's rally, the unions expressed their determination to work vigorously to ensure that the PNC is victorious at the polls on December 9.

The other unions which participated in the rally addressed by Deputy Leader

of the PNC Cde. Ptolem Reid were the Association of Masters and Mistresses, the Sawmill and Forestry Workers Union and the National Union of Public Service Employees.

At similar rallies earlier this week, 12 unions had also pledged their support for the PNC.

At a rally of the Guyana Teachers Union Hall addressed by President Hoyte on Tuesday, eight unions pledged their support. These were the Manpower Citizens Association, Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisors Union, General Workers Union, Guyana Public Service Union, Guyana Postal and Telecommunication Workers' Union, GEC Senior Staff Association, Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers and Amalgamated Transport and General

Workers Union.

And at a rally addressed by Prime Minister Green on Wednesday, members of the Local Government Officers Association, the Printing Industry and Allied Workers' Union, the Guyana Co-operative Mortgage Finance Bank Staff Association and the Government Employees Union also pledged their support to the PNC.

Meanwhile, addressing the workers yesterday, Cde. Reid urged them to vote on December 9 not only for the PNC but for the future of their children and the development of the country.

The PNC, Cde. Reid said, is one of the best political organisations in the Third World.

Speaking about the difficult task of development, he said if development is to take place, the people must be genuinely involved.

6 February 1986

They must also face the realities of our times, the former Prime Minister added.

He said there is also the need to struggle to change the world order which he noted is very unfavourable to developing countries such as Guyana.

Following is the text of the resolution:

"WHEREAS, we the unions, The Guyana Labour Union, The Guyana Teachers' Union, The Association of Masters and Mistresses, Sawmill and Forestry Workers' Union and The National Union for Public Service

Employees, who are affiliated or sympathetic to the Party and who have members throughout the length and breadth of this country and have lived through the difficult periods of Colonialist exploitation and oppression;

AND WHEREAS, through the People's National Congress the workers have gained increases in salaries and wages and improvement in their living and working conditions, coupled with the end to discrimination in education and against sexes, making education free from Nursery to University;

AND WHEREAS, THE RIGHT and DIGNITY of the

Trade Union Movement has been given recognition in the People's National Congress Government.

BE IT RESOLVED that we the workers gathered here at this workers' rally held on this Thursday, 28th November, 1985 at the Guyana Labour Union Head Office, unanimously agree to fully support the People's National Congress in the forthcoming General Elections and will continue to work vigorously to ensure that the People's National Congress and its President, Cde. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S.C., return to office with a resounding victory."

Newsprint for CATHOLIC STANDARD

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 85 p 1

[Unsigned article: "'Ottawa Citizen' offers 'Standard' One Ton of Newsprint, as Fr. Morrison Seeks To Cause Mischief"]

[Text]

THE "Ottawa Citizen," a Canadian newspaper has offered a ton of newsprint to the "Catholic Standard," according to reports reaching the "Chronicle."

This gift of newsprint, the "Chronicle" understands, has been requested by Fr. Andrew Morrison, Editor of the "Catholic Standard" who is at present on a tour of Canada.

The reports said Fr. Morrison has asked the Canadian newspaper to ship

the newsprint so that it could arrive in Georgetown before December 9, the date of the forthcoming general and regional elections.

Morrison is understood to have said that this would be a "test case" which would embarrass the Guyana Government.

It is also understood that a Mr. Babelosky of Canada has been in touch with

certain associates of the "Catholic Standard" in Georgetown to obtain certain information prior to the shipping of the newsprint.

Meanwhile, invited to comment on these reports, a spokesman for the Government said that it was typical of Morrison to go around the world maligning Guyana and seeking to cause mischief.

He said, he could not see how the shipment of newsprint could embarrass the Government or in any way affect the forthcoming elections. He dismissed Morrison as being "irrelevant to the substantive life of the Guyanese people."

PDM Program

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 85 p 4

[Text]

THE programme of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) for the

development of Guyana caters for a mixed economy in which the public and private sectors will play their relative roles, PDM Leader Llewellyn John said Thursday night.

During a political broadcast, John said his party rejects excessive State control.

"We shall place great stress on agricultural development..." and on the development of the interior, particularly those areas which already have settlers, John said.

"...It is our conviction that the forgotten areas of the Mazaruni-Potaro and Rupununi where people are already living should have priority to new schemes," he added.

The PDM Leader said that they would also restore all the social services, which, he contended, have miserably fallen down, and they would also place emphasis on planning.

The present Government in office has been one of incompetence and failure, the PDM Presidential Candidate declared.

He said the absence of essential foodstuff has brought to the poor man untold misery and want.

"Our country's public debt will reach a new high of 3 955 billion dollars at the end of 1985 and, with the erratic on-going devaluation

of the Guyana dollar and debt charges rising at the same time, Guyana is now in financial ruin," he added.

He said the ruling party and its supporting arms have not disguised their intention to rule Guyana in practice as a one-party State.

The most serious election issue to which the Guyanese people have to give answer is whether they will allow the Government in office to continue denying them the basic items of food which are so badly needed.

The PDM Leader referred to the rice and sugar industries which he said, have been facing problems of production and marketing.

"A PDM Government will give urgent attention to restoring the ground which the Guyanese have lost in respect of those two main agricultural products which are no longer in regular supply to the Guyanese people."

Year after year, he continued, large numbers of young people leave school with nothing to do.

The PDM, he said, would also give priority to what he termed the wretched system of public transport.

With respect to human rights, he said the difficulties placed in the way of organising the people, due to the muzzling of the Press

and Radio, and the tailoring of the same to churn out massive Government propaganda, will be halted.

"An end must be put to the arbitrary arrests, searches and Police harassment at gun-point at the toll stations, airports and other entrepôts: which have brought so much anguish and loss to many a Guyanese trader seeking to eke out a living," John said.

Added to these, war must be declared on corruption and squandermania, he went on.

The PDM Leader said the Public Accounts Committee must be enabled to function and the top-heavy bureaucratic ministerial structure, which now exceeds 25, must be dismantled.

According to John, the PDM, during the last 12 years, has been waging the struggle for a better way of life for the Guyanese people.

"That task has not been easy given the hindrances and obstacles which have been placed in the way of opposition parties..." John observed.

He said a vote for the PDM will earn Guyanese a number of rights, including the right to eat what the rulers are eating, the right to a job, the right against victimisation and the right to political association.

Ban on Processions

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 85 p 20

[Article by Albert Alstrom]

[Text]

COMMISSIONER of Police Balram Raghubir told Police officers and other ranks yesterday that he does not intend to give permission for the holding of processions during the period prior to the December 9 general elections.

The Commissioner of Police was at the time addressing the newly-appointed inspectors, sergeants and other ranks to bring them up to date with some of their responsibilities during the elections period and Christmas season.

Cde. Raghubir said that "there is need for written permission to be obtained from the Chief Officer of Police in any division before any permission could be allowed and he called on ranks to be alert and to exercise extra vigilance to

ensure that no procession is held, as he did not intend to grant any permission during the period prior to December 9, as the public campaign was fairly peaceful and it would not be in the best interest to allow processions."

He said that the promotions had come at a time when the Police Force was heavily committed to deal with normal crimes, traffic offences, and pre-election duties which require longer hours of work in preserving law and order at the large number of political meetings which are now being held in preparation for general

elections.

He observed that political meetings were being conducted fairly orderly and there were only a few incidents.

The Commissioner advised that the volume of work might increase and they are required to make sure that they are fully geared to deal with all offences relating to the general elections. He pointed out that there is need for Police to ensure that the elections are conducted orderly and peacefully and that voting at each polling station was uninterrupted, that the ballot boxes were allowed to be

taken by the appropriate elections officers to the place of counting, so that the counting could proceed without interference.

Commissioner Raghbir expressed confidence in the ability of the newly promoted ranks and called on them to undertake their tasks with zeal, determination and enthusiasm, not only during the elections period but during the Christmas period which will follow closely.

He called on them to give prompt, courteous and efficient service at all times.

Jagan-PNC Exchange

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 85 p 10

[Text] Letter from Dr. Cheddi Jagan to President Hoyte

President Desmond Hoyte
Presidential Secretariat
Vlissingen Road
Georgetown.

Dear Comrade President,

You have publicly announced that the agents of contesting parties will be allowed as of right to accompany ballot boxes to the counting places. There is urgent need to have clarified whether the agents will be permitted to travel in the same vehicles with the ballot boxes and for this to be communicated in writing to the various Returning and Presiding Officers in all the regions and published.

Contrary to what the Minister of Home Affairs has stated in last Sunday Chronicle this was not permitted in 1973 nor 1980. Instead our agents were ordered out of the Polling Places in some instances even before the close of Polls and were stopped at

gun point by the military from accompanying the boxes.

You will concede that in the interior areas there are physical and other factors which can militate against the boxes being accompanied particularly when they are removed by helicopters and aircraft unless there are clear and specific instructions to the Returning and Presiding Officers that the agents will be accommodated in whatever facility is used for transporting the boxes.

This matter is of grave public concern and requires clarification and your intervention to have translated into reality your public assurance in this matter.

In the circumstances, it will be appreciated if you will agree to meet a small delegation from my Party to discuss the matter.

Yours Co-operatively,
Cheddi Jagan.

Chief Political Adviser Replies to Dr. Jagan

My Dear Dr. Jagan,

The Comrade President has passed to me for reply your letter to him of 22nd November, 1985, concerning certain aspects of our electoral procedures.

As you have observed, the Comrade President, in his capacity as Leader of the People's National Congress, has publicly reiterated the PNC's position which it took at previous elections to the effect that the Party supports the practice of representatives of contesting political parties accompanying ballot boxes in the course of their transportation from the polling places to the central counting places. Indeed, the Party has always urged political parties to exercise this right. You will recall that a definitive directive on this matter was given at the 1980 elections by the Elections Commission and, the Comrade President expects that similar action will be taken on this occasion. The Comrade President understands that you have written the Commission on this issue — and he considers this to be the correct course. Needless to say, the PNC is committed to abide by any decision which the Commission may see fit to make.

With respect to the second paragraph of your letter, the Comrade President rejects the asseverations you have made therein. He would like to take this opportunity to endorse the statement by the Comrade Minister of Home Affairs in his published letter to Bishop Singh of November 13, 1985, as to what happened at previous elections. It is absolutely untrue that P.P.P. election agents were ordered out of polling stations or "stopped at gunpoint by the military from accompanying ballot boxes", as alleged by you. The Comrade President strongly deplores your practice of vilifying the security forces and besmirching their good name by making such false statements. Fortunately, despite your defamation of the brave and patriotic men and women who constitute our security forces, the overwhelming majority of Guyanese citizens honour and respect them and hold them in the highest esteem.

In 1973, as you very well know, the P.P.P. organised its activists to beset some polling stations, to steal and destroy ballot boxes and to impede election officials in the transporting of these boxes to the central counting places on election day. Indeed, prior to the 1973 elections, i.e., on Friday 13th July, 1973, the then Minister of Home Affairs felt compelled to broadcast to the nation and alert citizens to the fact that you and other members of the P.P.P. were inciting persons to disrupt the electoral process by certain illegal and violent means. In that broadcast, the Minister mentioned, with great particularity, several examples of incitement by you and other P.P.P. members.

The following paragraph from the said broadcast provides an excellent summary of the charges made by the Minister:

For some weeks now, but more particularly since June 26, PPP Leaders and notably the Leader of the Opposition himself, at public meetings throughout the length and breadth of Guyana, have been exhorting citizens to organise confusion and violence at the close of the Polls.

It would not be inapposite, I believe, to cite two examples from the Minister's statement to illustrate the nature of the inflammatory exhortations of which the Minister so rightly complained. These are as follows:

[1] On June 23rd at Skeldon Truck line, at Crabwood Creek and at No. 71 Village, Dr. Jagan said that supporters of the PPP must take their children to the polling stations and sit around them and form a human wall and that they should place vehicles and block the road to prevent anyone from removing the ballot boxes. He said that this was done in Vietnam against the Americans and if force was used it would be met with force.....

And again:

[2]. On June 25th at Whim Middle Walk dam, Dr. Jagan said that PPP supporters should vote early on election day and after voting they should organise and form a human barricade outside all polling places. They must take their babies and women folk and put them to squat on streets and roadways leading from the polling places and to reinforce the squatting with barricades, old vehicles, tree trunks and other things at their disposal. He said that if Police and soldiers were sent to remove them they must meet force with force and make up their minds to die if need be.....

A copy of the Minister's full statement is annexed hereto by way of a reminder if, perchance, you do not recollect the fact and content of his broadcast aforementioned. (Attachment "A").

It is a matter of history, as you very well know, that on election day in 1973 some P.P.P. supporters did actually attempt to carry out the plan outlined in the excerpts cited above. Some ballot boxes were indeed stolen and destroyed; election officials were impeded in the discharge of their functions; and several persons were arrested, charged and convicted for these and related offences arising from the criminal activities to which they had been incited.

It was against this background and in this context that the Elections Commission gave

specific written instructions to the Chief Election Officer that the security forces should ensure the safety of the ballot boxes and that the boxes should remain under security guard until the counting began. Your continued allegations of wrongdoing by the security forces in this connection is false, as you very well know, and have no merit whatsoever. To ascribe impropriety to the security forces for carrying out their duty as directed by the Elections Commission, is gravely irresponsible and objectionable.

During the elections in 1980, citizens were obviously not prepared to allow themselves to be misled by you and the P.P.P. into acts which were clearly of a criminal nature. There was no situation which gave rise to a considered opinion that persons were likely to impede the electoral process, particularly by attempting to seize and destroy ballot boxes and by obstructing election officials in the discharge of their functions — and, in fact no such attempts were made. In the circumstances, the Elections Commission did not have occasion to give any instructions about the safety and security of the ballot boxes. During the 1980 elections, the security forces did not handle or otherwise come into any physical contact with ballot boxes and had no specific role in the electoral process, apart from exercising their franchise as citizens and performing their routine duties of ensuring internal peace. Yet, you have never desisted from your prevarication that in 1980 the security forces "seized" ballot boxes.

In the light of the 1973 experience, the Comrade President finds it extremely distressing that you and the P.P.P. are again inciting P.P.P. activists to pursue the same misguided and illegal course of action to which you persuaded some of them in 1973 — with such tragic consequences! It is sad — and a matter for deep regret — that, within recent weeks, you and several other P.P.P. speakers at public meetings have been progressively turning to the theme of violence and disorder.

For the purpose of aiding your memory, I am attaching hereto particulars of some of the inflammatory public statements which have recently been made by you and some of your colleagues. (Attachment "B"). They bear a chilling resemblance to the statements made in 1973 which formed the subject-matter of the then Minister of Home Affairs' broadcast aforementioned. What you and other PPP speakers have been saying may be summarised as follows:

- [1] that the P.P.P. would organise strikes, picketing demonstrations etc. in the period just prior to election day.

- (a) to demonstrate its strength;
- (b) to coerce the Government;

- (c) to bring down the Government;

- (2) that prior to election day (and on election day itself it seems) the P.P.P. would bring "thousands of supporters into Georgetown to demonstrate, picket," etc.;
- (3) that P.P.P. supporters should besiege polling stations, seize ballot boxes and otherwise obstruct election officials when they are taking the ballot boxes to the central counting places;
- (4) that, for the purpose of (3) above, P.P.P. supporters should organise their women folk and children (and in particular babes in arms) to beset the said polling stations; and, that they should block the roads with tree trunks and other obstacles to impede the transportation of ballot boxes.
- (5) that, in the event that the Police intervene to enforce the law and maintain order, P.P.P. supporters should resist the Police — in your own words "meet force with force".

As far as I am aware, there is no law against demonstrations, providing they are peaceful and the necessary Police permission has been obtained. However you have been in public life long enough to know that it would be unlawful for people to beset polling stations, prevent ballot boxes from being transported and generally to interfere with the electoral process in the way you have been advocating. Moreover,

it must be obvious, even to you, that the inflammatory statements to which I have referred and the concurrence of the strikes, demonstrations and other manifestations which you have been advocating--and which you allege you will organise!--can in fact create a physical situation conducive to violence and disorder. It would be cynically irresponsible of you to ignore this fact!

I do not think that it is a good enough answer for you to say, as you have done in your recent radio broadcast, that "those who distort our call for such methods of struggle as advocacy of violence, seem bent on army intervention, hijacking of, and tampering with, ballot boxes". However you may choose to describe the methods which you advocate, if they are in fact calculated to lead, and do lead, to physical obstruction of the electoral process, as happened in 1973, no government that is committed to the maintenance of internal peace and stability and the proper working of our democratic processes, as the present Government is, can, or will, accept or tolerate the resulting situation!

At this point, it might be useful to refer to an excerpt from the aforementioned statement by the Minister of Home Affairs in 1973.

In seeking to explain away the matter, Dr. Jagan said, "I was making the suggestion to the people that they must take positive action and squat around the polling boxes peacefully. We said clearly, and the Police must have this, that we do not want to cause any trouble. We are not asking anybody to make any disturbance". Later in his statement Dr. Jagan said "the Police obviously reported to him (the Prime Minister) but they have not put the matter fully as I have at the meetings and he has distorted completely what was the whole intention of the line of action we were suggesting."

That was your explanation in 1973!

In 1985, therefore, you are resorting to the same tenuous explanation which you used in 1973 in an attempt to exculpate yourself by denying that you intend to be understood as urging people to violence and to breaches of the law. However, we have seen the tragic consequences that flowed in 1973 from the very statements you are once again making in 1985: among other things, people died. In 1985, you are using identical words, issuing identical exhortations. It is difficult to see how, with your experience of 1973, you can reasonably hope to disassociate yourself from any untoward developments that might occur as a result of your behaviour. In any event, it is not apprehended how, as a matter of law, you can reasonably expect to escape a personal liability for the natural and probable consequences of your own deliberate actions.

Accordingly, the Comrade President considers that he has a responsibility to bring these matters to your attention in a

timely way. He would be glad if you and your speakers would desist from inciting citizens to break the law and to commit themselves to a course of action, fraught with such dangerous implications, to which they might not unreasonably feel they have been summoned by your exhortations. If some of them take these exhortations at face value and attempt to act on them, the consequences would be, to say the very least, most unhappy.

The Comrade President is on record as assuring the Guyanese people on several occasions since assuming office that he considered, as one of his primary and inescapable responsibilities, the duty to maintain the peaceful environment in our country to which the Guyanese people have so long grown accustomed. In this respect, he does not accept that any citizen, no matter how prominent in national life, is above the law. He therefore takes this opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to the resolute discharge of his duty.

With reference to your request for the Comrade President to meet a delegation from the P.P.P., I have already noted that you have written the Elections Commission requesting it to take action on the very issues you wish to discuss. In the circumstances, the President is of the view that, the Elections Commission being properly seized of the matter, it would be an act of supererogation for him to accede to the specific request contained in your letter.

With kind regards.

Yours co-operatively,
Chief Political Adviser

Expatriates' Threat

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 85 p 10

[Text]

A London-based group calling itself the Emergency Committee for free and fair elections in Guyana has been issuing threats about violent confrontation in Guyana.

The group comprising members of the PPP (UK branch) and the WPA (UK support group) in a statement issued in London on November 9, made four demands of the Guyana Government and concluded that "unless the government concedes to the demands ...the prospect for violent confrontation becomes imminent."

6 February 1986

'Inflammatory' Jagan Statements

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 85 p 11

[Unsigned article: "List of Some Examples of Inflammatory Statements Made by Dr. Jagan and Other PPP Speakers"]

[Text]

1. 1985-11-06 Vreed-en-Hoop Clement Rohee,
Clement Rohee

said that the people must fight and prevent the ballot boxes being removed from the polling places until the preliminary count has taken place.

2. 1985-11-14 1) Devonshire Castle Harry Persaud
 2) Hampton Court Nokta

Harry Persaud Nokta

said that the PNC must be removed from office by all means possible. He referred to statements allegedly made by Dr. Jagan that the people must be mobilised to fight and if necessary to die for the removal of the P.N.C. from office. He said that they must prevent the ballot boxes from being removed from polling stations. He referred to 1973 when he alleged that the P.P.P. had done that. He cited the civil wars in South & Central American countries as an example the supporters should follow.

3. 1985-11-14 1) Port Mourant Dr. Jagan
 2) Albion

Dr Jagan

said that the masses had resorted to violence in Jamaica and the same violence would come to Guyana. He did not want the people only to vote for the PPP, but to hold "all kinds of anti-government demonstrations including pickets and strikes." He said that if the P.N.C. won the elections he would unite all anti-government forces to throw the P.N.C. government out of office by any means possible. He called upon his supporters to prevent the Elections Officers from removing ballot boxes unless there was a preliminary count at polling places. He said he would "show Hoyte that he (Jagan) still had power in Guyana."

4. 1985-11-16 1) No. 71 Village Dr. Jagan
 2) No. 64 Village

Dr Jagan

called for the people to go on strike, to stage massive demonstrations in the streets to demand ... that the preliminary count of votes be taken at polling stations. He said that the women must take their children and babies to block the movement of ballot boxes. He referred to countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay where the people organised demonstrations and strikes and brought down the Government, notwithstanding the fact that thousands of protestors were killed in the process. He called on Guyanese to sacrifice their lives. He said that they would have to take the risk of being shot and killed. He said if people want a change in Government, they must be prepared to be killed like the two comrades who lost their lives at No. 64 Village in the 1973 elections or like the people of Brazil who fight and die for such things.

5. 1985-11-19 1) Ocean View, Uitvlugt, Dr. Jagan
2) Leonora, W.C.D.

Dr Jagan

denied a Chronicle report that he was advocating violence during the forthcoming elections. He said however, that he was calling for marches, pickets, strikes and demonstrations. He said that he would be calling on the people from West Demerara to join their colleagues to march and demonstrate and put pressure on the Government and the Elections Commission while the P.P.P. was holding talks with the Commission. He said the P.N.C. planned to rig the forthcoming elections. When this happens, the masses would be compelled to demonstrate in the streets and would come into contact with the Police. He said, however, that they must be prepared to fight the Police as the workers had done in Latin American countries and remove the P.N.C. from office. He said that the men must block the road with tree trunks, old vehicles, etc., to prevent ballot boxes from being removed from polling places until there was a preliminary count and the women folk must carry their children and "form a human wall."

6. 1985-11-22 Bush Lot, W.C.B. Dr. Jagan
Dr Jagan

said that within another two weeks he would march on Georgetown with over 50 000 supporters from Berbice and President Hoyte "will know whew he dey."

7. 1985-11-24 Mattia Bndge Dr. Jagan
Udho Bridge, Canal
No. 2 Polder.

Dr. Jagan

said that people should be prepared for struggle and join in demonstrations in Georgetown and elsewhere. He said they must understand that "anything could happen now."

8. 1985-11-27 1) Industry Dr. Jagan
Dr Jagan 2) Better Hope, E.C.D.

said that within another week he would be holding mass demonstrations in Georgetown using people from many villages. They would convene at a central area where a massive rally would be held to impress foreign diplomats and other persons that he (Dr. Jagan) was still strong. He said that during the following week he would be ordering a "picketing demonstration" outside the Elections Office in Georgetown.

Anglican, Catholic Pastoral Letter

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 1 Dec 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

THE following pastoral letter of Bishop Randolph George and Bishop Benedict Singh marks a major development in the ecumenical movement as it affects their two denominations.

For the first time in Guyana, the two heads of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches have come together to issue a joint pastoral letter. The text follows and will be read in all the Churches of the two denominations today, Sun. Dec. 1 and on Sun. Dec. 8.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

On the occasion of the forthcoming Elections, we have taken the liberty of addressing the faithful of our two communions through this joint letter.

While recognising that one's political rights are not satisfied merely by the casting of a ballot every five years, nevertheless, for us christians, as well as for other citizens, the time of national elections offers a special opportunity to exercise one aspect of these rights according to our beliefs and the moral principles we hold in common.

We often pray that through the Spirit's work within us, "the face of the earth may be renewed", and in a special way, we would want this renewal, this newness, to take roots within our own Guyana.

It is therefore with this in mind, that we take this occasion to bring to your attention, for your prayers and deep reflection, some guidelines which may help you in coming to a decision with respect to the exercise of the right to vote on December 9th.

Firstly, since every right carries with it a corresponding duty, it follows that all christians have a duty to vote, and this is founded on the need to make sure of and contribute to a society which will uphold the dignity of all men, according to the laws of God. This dignity of man is safeguarded when people have a real say in the process of government not only in electing those who govern, but also in meaningfully participating in the establishment of just and humane policies and structures, which put the interest of people first. Thus, a christian option in voting cannot include parties which accept, promote or encourage oppressive economic inequality, social exclusion, cor-

ruption and racial discrimination.

So, some questions you ought to ask of each party are:

'Will it respect the God given rights of every citizen?

'Will it treat everyone fairly regardless of race, colour, creed?

Will it respect the right to have churches with priests and religious in all parts of the country without restriction or discrimination?

Will it work for justice and promote racial harmony?

Will it provide families with the conditions necessary for a decent, healthy family life?

Secondly, since the casting of the ballot is not only the exercise of a right but also results in some members of society exercising power on behalf of others, christians must be sensitive to the whole complex question of political power. Political power must be founded on truth, built on justice, and animated by love. Political power must be exercised on a daily basis in freedom toward a more humane balance. Thus, any group or political party that abuses or corrupts such political power or uses it for their own interest, whether to maintain themselves in power or otherwise, cannot be considered worthy of such a mandate, and as christians we cannot and should not contribute to such evil practice.

Thirdly, the casting of a ballot for one particular party should not be interpreted as giving up our necessary and continuing responsibility to see that justice and fair-play are meted out to all. We therefore must insist on some sort of accountability on the part of those whom we choose to govern, as such accountability not only allows them to have some external checks on their exercise of power, but also allows us, the people, to have a continuous influence on the way power is exercised on our behalf.

Finally, as in the past, and more especially now, we must hold high the banner of Christ's peace, so that stable conditions may exist for the exercise of our right to vote. Adverse conditions, can lead to many abuses and to grave results,

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not only on election day itself, but also for some time afterwards. We must persuade all social, political and civic groups to which we belong, to work and create a calm and peaceful climate, especially during this time of the elections campaigns. The future harmony and togetherness of our people are at stake and therefore we urge that every suggested action to ensure the fairness and indeed the appearance of fairness of the elections must be seriously considered.

We moreover urge you, our brothers and sisters, to pray the prayer of St. Francis:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injustice, let me be just;

Where there is sorrow, let me bring joy."

We pray earnestly that both individually and as a community, we Christians, may be truly "the east within the dough", which can help transform our society and bring peace and prosperity to all of Guyana's citizens.

May God bless, protect and be with you always.

Yours devotedly in Christ, /

Sgd: +Randolph George, Bishop of Guyana.

+Benedict Singh, Bishop of Georgetown

Criticism of Morrison

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

FR. ANDREW Morrison continues to malign Guyana and has urged the Canadian Government to continue to put pressure on Guyana.

"Morrison said the Canadian Government should continue to pressure the ruling People's National Congress to 'free up the industries and the private sector', the 'Citizen' newspaper, published in Ottawa, Canada, reported him as telling a gathering of about 40 persons at the University of Ottawa recently.

Morrison, a Jesuit priest and editor of the Catholic Standard is currently on a tour of Canada.

Guyana, he told the

gathering, is in a "bleak state" after 21 years of corrupt Government under the late President Forbes Burnham.

He was also quoted as saying Guyana has deteriorated from being the most productive of the Caribbean nations to the "bottom of the pile, rivalling Haiti" in its poverty.

He accused the Government of mismanagement of industry and of "rigging elections" and blamed it for an exodus of technical and agricultural expertise from the country.

Guyanese, he was also quoted as saying, "don't want to work for the country."

Canada, he added, can help preserve the "Catholic

Standard" by pressuring the Government to allow that paper to accept gifts of newsprint from outside the country.

The Guyana Government, he also said, has attempted to muzzle the "Catholic Standard" by, among other things, bringing five libel suits against it in less than two years.

The paper hasn't been closed, he said, because the late President Burnham "liked to do things legally."

Meanwhile, another Jesuit priest, Nathan B. De Sousa, in what is seen as part of an orchestrated campaign to besmirch Guyana's name, recently wrote a very distorted article which was published in the Times of India.

PNC Vote Target

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Dec 85 p 8

[Text]

ACTIVISTS of the People's National Congress have a bounden duty on Monday next, to get up

early and mobilise their families, co-workers, neighbourhood, the sick and infirm, to go out and vote early so that the Party can get at least 90 per cent of the ballots cast at the polls.

The People's National Congress is looking for a minimum of 90 per cent of the ballots cast so that there can be a landslide victory and an assurance for continued peace and development, nationwide.

Prime Minister, Cde Hamilton Green, addressing a meeting at Parika last week, said "The activists of the PNC must ensure that we have every person mobilised to go out and vote on the morning of December 9 and vote for the PNC."

Cde Green said that Guyanese have a tendency to become complacent but he reminded his audience of their commitment to vote early and wisely.

Call for Hindu Support

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

NEW AMSTERDAM: Berbice (GNA) -- Senior Vice-President of the Guyana Maha Sabha, Somal Rampersaud Sunday night called upon the Hindu community in Berbice to vote solidly for the People's National Congress in order to maintain peace, progress and development of Guyana.

Speaking at a Maha Sabha Prayer Meeting at the New Amsterdam Ashram, Cde Rampersaud noted that President Desmond Hoyte has shown the skill and the necessary dedication to the cause of people's development and has outclassed the candidates from the other parties in deed and action.

The Maha Sabha senior executive member said

President Hoyte is a superb individual who has an ideal policy for the future development of our dear land of Guyana.

"We know as well as all Guyanese know of Desmond Hoyte as their choice as President," he said, "for the PNC and the President have tremendous vision and foresight for a progressive Guyana."

Attack on Jesuit Official

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Fr. Mathew B. D'Souza, a Jesuit priest and a naturalised Guyanese, has joined in the misinformation campaign intended to malign Guyana.

An associate of Fr. Andrew Morrison, Editor of the Catholic Standard and another Jesuit, D'Souza is reportedly in India where he wrote a distorted article about Guyana which was published in a recent issue of the "Times of India".

In his article published under the headline: "Mr. Burnham's Dismal Legacy in Guyana", D'Souza said the

1968 elections in Guyana gave the late President Forbes Burnham "freedom to show his true colours". This, he claimed, Cde. Burnham did by, among other things, nationalising foreign firms, expanding the country's defence force, introducing National Service for the youth, and proclaiming Guyana a Co-operative Republic.

He claimed that the People's National Congress (PNC) has made the judiciary and all aspects of national life subservient to it; that after the new constitution was

promulgated, Cde. Burnham became Executive President "with almost absolute power", that the Government has been intimidating public sector workers; that the economy is under the control of a small group of men who have no real obligation to defend their policies; and that there is a serious food shortage in the country.

He also claimed that "opposition groups are continually harassed" and their meetings are "broken up by PNC thugs"; that opposition papers have to "scrounge for paper on the

blackmarket"; that independent journalists are harassed; and that opposition journalists and newspapers are subjected to libel suits against them "for the flimsiest of reasons."

Fr. D'Souza, who is the Jesuit Supervisor in Guyana,

was reportedly born in India, but has been a registered citizen of Guyana since 1972.

It is not known why, but Fr. D'Souza did not use his title — Fr. — with his by-line to the story. His by-line read: "by Mathew B D'Souza". (GNA).

Ballot Box Examination

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 85 p 12

[Text]

MEMBERS of the Elections Commission have expressed their satisfaction with the ballot boxes to be used on December 9, when Guyanese go to the polls.

Satisfaction with the boxes was expressed Monday shortly after members of the Commission had visited the National Registration Offices at High and Cowan streets where the boxes were being stored.

Those carrying out the thorough examination were Chairman of the Com-

mission, Cde. Harold Bollers; Secretary to the Commission, Cde. Lance Ferreira; People's Progressive Party Representative on the Commission, Cde. Clement Rohee; and the People's National Congress (PNC) Representative, Cde. Stanley Moore. [Picture below]

In the course of campaigning for the elections, opposition parties have spent much time talking about the ballot boxes and some have expressed fears about the security of the boxes.

At Monday's examination

exercise, the team, headed by Cde. Bollers, subjected the boxes to a detailed examination. Interest was shown in the size of the boxes, the manner of construction, the hasps and staples used as part of the locking (security) devices, and in the sturdiness of the boxes.

At least one box was thrown to the ground to test its sturdiness, and at the end of the exercise, Commission Chairman, Cde. Bollers said the Commission was satisfied with the boxes.

WPA Leader's Address

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 5 Dec 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Kwayana's broadcast, not heard by most of Guyana, December 2 and 3, GBC "breakdown"—

Brothers and sisters all over Guyana, Young men and young women,

As we began to explain the first broadcast by brother Roopnaraine, a WPA victory on December 9 will lead to new ways of treating political power.

In this election campaign, we have put our ideas on paper, in a Manifesto of 32 pages, which you should try to read, and in a mini-manifesto, which you are sure to have put in your hand. In them, you will find clear ideas of economic and social policy, of how the WPA proposes to get the reconstruction going.

Let us then spend time on what is not so clearly written down.

Multiracial Unity--Then and Now

Three parties so far, two officially and one unofficially, feel that they have a hot election issue. They have nothing to attack the WPA with. So they take up their history books, hold them upside down, and read there, that I, Eusi Kwayana, in 1961, made a plan to divide Guyana into racial areas. If they hold the book right they will see that the plan gave those who led the people in those days two choices: real unity, or division.

The plan proposed a joint and equal prime ministership to solve the question of competition for power--with partition or division as a last choice, if the two leaders could not agree to unite.

It is with pain that having proposed sincere unity with power-sharing, or division as a last-resort, I again find myself accused of preaching division.

Nor did the two leaders go on to choose unity.

No, they united only in declaring that I had done a wicked thing.

I am glad it has been raised so that it can be answered openly. The records are still there in the archives, in the papers of July 1961--34 years ago. Since then, as we all know, the mightiest strides made towards multiracial unity--not the only strides, but the greatest--have been made, and continue to be made, by the Working People's Alliance.

In one case a party is using this issue to turn your attention away from the issue of the ballot box, the issue of the observers and the falling apart of the democratic order and the moral order all around us.

Electoral Fraud Is a Messy Business

Guyana has been without free and fair elections for the last 21 years. It is hard to hide the effect of these years on the economy, on the moral order, on the type of people we are beginning to be. The Chitnis Mission, to our great shame, was not slow to note the results. It wrote: "Electoral fraud in practice is not as neat and clean and the simple deleting of a paragraph...It is a messy business involving ties, intimidation, forgery and sometimes the use of force...".

This messy business" has benefited no one except a handful. It weighed heavily on the soul of the late Head of State. This kind of stalemate in the society and the political system has had many victims on both sides. I have no doubt that an important victim was the late Founder-Leader of the PNC. The ruling party will do well to look at it afresh with a view to removing the messy business.

The Walls of Babylon-Crumbling

The WPA has come forward in these elections because it is correct, as we have been doing, to turn the campaign into a mighty protest at the many injuries against the people.

At the same time we know that the moment is big with change.

Those who are claiming that party loyalties are today the same as ten years ago do not know the political behaviour as it has developed and insult the intelligence of the ordinary people. Racial loyalty is not a major issue in this campaign and is not going to be--despite the efforts of the old race warriors and others of the old order.

You will notice that even while I am being accused of wishing division, the WPA is also accused of planning to merge with the PPP. The reason for this confusion in the minds of the oppressors is this: the walls of Babylon, the fortress of the old politics, are crumbling before our very eyes. There is panic in the fortress. Those who defend it and its backwardness are using any missile they can find. They have found the missile of division and the missile of unity. Strangely, both are being hurled in our direction.

The WPA, since it is a new party in election contests, wishes to have an accurate count of its electoral support. It must be a count that satisfies us as well as the people and independent opinion. There are several other reasons why a preliminary count at the place of poll will help to redeem our country from among the company of the damned.

The new Guyana is struggling to come to life. We believe a new future can be born out of the ballot box. But it needs the fresh air of a preliminary count at the place of poll, as a midwife to guard against accidents.

Think of it. This one single procedure, the counting of the ballot at the place of poll on December 9, can open the path to a new democratic order. If it is denied, we will be left confined in the old benighted prison. A preliminary count at the place of voting will remove the main barrier between the dictatorship of the past and the chance of a new democratic foundation. The population, including the working people, will not forget a Chief Executive who has the boldness to bring this about.

GUYANA NEEDS A PRELIMINARY COUNT

It is clear that the PNC makes a link between the preliminary count and its possible defeat. It is also relying for its victory on arrangements which allow it to remove the ballot boxes without a count first taken at the place of poll. Of the seven parties contesting the election, the PNC is the only one opposed to a preliminary count. This is also the position of the PNC majority of the Elections Commission.

His Excellency President Hoyte has raised the hopes of many with a few welcome gestures. But these will be without meaning if he does not follow through and relieve his nominees in the Elections Commission, not the Commission itself, of the belief that they must resist the demand of six out of seven parties, and 90 percent of the Guyanese people for a preliminary count before the boxes are sealed - as an administrative measure, to remove doubts and suspicion of the validity of the count.

The plan to ask political parties to accompany ballot boxes without a preliminary count depends too much on unknown persons, with secret instructions. Their names are not gazetted for those election duties. They are unknown by name and office. Our fate cannot wisely be entrusted to persons who are not known in advance, or who fall under military discipline and some security code, who wearing no registration numbers or even uniform may even belong to a disciplined force which has pledged loyalty to the PNC. We have nothing but concern for the sisters and brothers of the disciplined forces. They too must have the right to a secret ballot like the rest of us.

Yes, the open count at the place of poll, before the boxes are removed is an equal guarantee to all and second to none. For this reason it is normal throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean.

GOOD CANNOT COME OUT OF EVIL

Is it not rather late in the day for a party, which allowed Jim Jones to establish a state within a state, to tell the world that unarmed and certified observers of a Caribbean or Commonwealth team, or others interested in elections, threaten the security of our country?

What is at stake is the moral order in which our younger generations are formed and by which they are informed. No responsible leader, looking at the fall of standards in our country, will take one single step in the direction of further corruption and illegality.

Those who are asked to break the law in the interests of rulers will soon break the law in their own interests. And we cannot be surprised if a moral darkness settles on the land and hangs there, stifling everything.

Election rigging is no cure for insecurity. It only makes insecurity more insecure. All genuine revolutionaries condemn it out of hand. The religious thinkers would have none of it - Hindu, Islamic, Christian, African and Amerindian. Gandhi would not use wrong methods. St Paul posed the question facing many at this moment: "Shall we do evil that good may come?" And answered it, "God forbid!"

ON DECEMBER 9 VOTE FOR LOVE OF LIFE

Now to December 9th. When our great patriot, Walter Rodney, was forcibly removed, as we walked fifteen miles to bury him, emotions ran riot. Grappling with those emotions ourselves, our considered opinion was declared in the slogan, "History will retaliate". You are now part of that history. Your weapon is the ballot. Vote in a way that honours Rodney's memory.

Yet we ask that in going to the polls, you must put behind you all feelings of hatred. We ask that you vote rather for love - love of life, of happy, well nourished children, of rich farms and bright mornings, of laughter, of prosperity, of a just peace.

Let the day ring with peace and justice on December 9.

Be silent to a fault. Refuse to be provoked.

In the polling booth you are alone with your conscience.

Vote for the party which in its policies and in its practice has put the multiracial future on the agenda once again - the party of Walter Rodney.

Vote for the WPA. Vote for the Bell.

Ring out the old! Ring in the new!

[The Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE of 4 December, page 6, carries an extensive report, with quotations, of the above speech by WPA presidential candidate Eusi Kwayana broadcast the evening of 2 December.]

WPA Suit Against GBC

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 85 p 3

[Text] The Guyana Broadcasting Corporation has been given 10 days within which to reply to an affidavit filed by Eusi Kwayana and five other top Working People's Alliance (WPA) members.

The WPA top members are seeking a declaration against the GBC, its Manager, James Sydney and the Attorney-General that the failure and, or refusal, by the manager of GBC to sell radio time to the WPA in relation to the election campaign was unconstitutional.

The WPA members are also seeking a Court order directing the Manager of GBC to make available reasonable radio time to the WPA at normal charge.

They are also seeking damages in excess of \$1,500.

DLM Charge Against PPP

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] The Democratic Labour Movement (DLM) has accused the People's Progressive Party (PPP) of resorting to violence to break up a DLM meeting at Enterprise on November 21.

A DLM bulletin, circulated by the DLM, said that dozens of little children were used in three groups directed by PPP and GAWU officials to make noise at the meeting.

The bulletin added: "The PPP officials in Enterprise went house to house threatening the people to burn down their homes if they attended the meeting. The people nevertheless turned out.

"On seeing the large attendance, the children were used to make noise. When that failed, the PPP and GAWU officials began to throw stones. The DLM militants who were in attendance at the meeting decided to end the meeting in order to save the children from being victims of physical confrontation."

Investigations into the incident, the DLM said, revealed that the violence at the meeting was planned at Freedom House.

"The DLM is calling on the PPP leadership to desist from violence. The PPP has a reputation of initiating violence and then proving incapable of dealing with the backlash," the DLM said in its bulletin.

The DLM speakers at the meeting were George Fitzgallen, Cecil Narine, Eon Halls, J. A. Leila and Patrick Agard.

PNC Blast at PPP

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 85 p 4

[Text]

IN an invited comment on four Press releases issued by the PPP on November 30, 1985, and several letters

written by Dr. Jagan to the Chairman of the Elections Commission, the Commissioner of Police and

other public officials, Cde. Robert Corbin, Campaign Director of the PNC, remarked that Dr. Jagan and the PPP were apparently "campaigning by Press conferences, Press releases, and letter-writing." These things, he observed, had nothing to do with the Guyanese electorate, but were designed for overseas consumption. He observed that the PPP seemed to have slight interest in the local electorate and were yet to make serious attempts to hold meetings in Regions, 8, 9 and 10 and in significant townships and communities in other regions such as Mabaruma in Region One and Mahdia in Region Seven.

Cde. Corbin said that he was glad that, in one of the releases, the PPP were now denying that they were

advocating violence and exhorting PPP activists to beset polling places, prevent the removal of ballot boxes, and obstruct election officials in the discharge of their functions on election day.

Cde. Corbin noted, however, that the various calls for violence and other breaches of the peace by PPP speakers had been carefully documented. It now appeared, however, that the PPP were having second thoughts and that, in his view, was a good thing. He pointed out that President Hoyte had said that he could not tolerate any violence or confusion in this country.

With respect to the various allegations contained in the releases, Cde. Corbin remarked that it was typical

of Dr. Jagan to make wild allegations before and after every election. "This is the story of his life," Cde. Corbin quipped. He expressed the opinion that the PPP were not campaigning to win the elections, but to prepare in advance excuses for losing. He opined that Dr. Jagan had already "psyched himself into losing."

Commenting on the list of "demands" made by the PPP in the recent statements and letters, Cde. Corbin said that the Cde. President had already done everything reasonable and practicable to accommodate the PPP. He noted that the President himself had observed that he could not respond to "every whim, caprice or paranoid fear of Dr. Jagan."

Ballot Box Turn-Ins

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 85 p 12

[Text]

TWENTY-ONE of the 27 ballot boxes used in Tuesday's "pre-balloting" exercise have so far been handed over to the Elections Commission for safe-keeping, pending the counting of the ballots at the appointed time.

The six boxes still outstanding are likely to be handed in sometime today.

Those outstanding are from three polling centres in the hinterland — Lethem, Mabaruma, and Matthew's Ridge.

The Guyana Defence Force and the Police Force are each to return three boxes.

Meanwhile, polling agents representing the People's Progressive Party accompanied the ballot boxes from some polling stations including those at Bartica, Leonora and Suddie and

stayed with the boxes while they were accommodated overnight at Police Headquarters before being handed over to the Elections Commission yesterday.

Some boxes were handed over Tuesday night.

Members of the GDF and the Police were required to vote Tuesday so that their services could be available for security duties when the rest of the electorate votes on Monday, December 9.

Hoyte on Vote's Significance

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Dec 85 p 1

[Article by Dhanraj Bhagwandin]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte has declared that the upcoming general elections will be the most crucial in the political history of Guyana.

"With the elections, the politics of confrontation and confusion will be dead... racial politics will be dead," President Hoyte told a mammoth crowd at a public meeting last night at New Amsterdam.

The meeting which got going around 19:30 hrs at Main and New streets, attracted people from a wide cross-section of the town.

And in his stirring address, President Hoyte highlighted some of the significant achievements of

the PNC during the past 21 years.

"We have campaigned on a positive note. We have campaigned on a platform of peace, development and co-operation," the President told the large gathering.

Referring to those who talk about violence, he said as long as he was President of Guyana, he will ensure that the legacy of peace is maintained.

During the era of peace, Guyanese have prospered, the President noted.

Cde Hoyte identified a number of areas in health, education, water supply, electricity and agriculture in which significant progress has been recorded.

He said the PNC is the only organised Party with the capacity to manage the

affairs of Guyana. And it is the Party which has been with the Guyanese people in both good and in bad times, he noted.

Since Independence, Cde Hoyte added, Guyanese have been imbued with a stronger sense of confidence. This is reflected in different ways. And he listed the successful management of the bauxite and sugar industries as evidence of Guyanese ability to manage their affairs.

And speaking about development, the President said it is a slow, difficult and often dangerous process.

He urged residents of the town to go out and vote early on December 9, for the right to vote was won by sweat and blood.

Jamaican Analyst

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

Jamaican pollster and University of the West Indies Professor, Carl Stone, is scheduled to arrive in Guyana shortly in connection with the forthcoming general and regional elections.

Stone's visit, the Chronicle understands, has been

arranged by the People's Progressive Party (PPP) with the assistance of Dr. Trevor Munroe of the Workers Party of Jamaica. The Chronicle also understands that during his stay in Guyana, Stone will be staying at the home of Miles Fitzpatrick.

WPA Stand on Ballot Boxes

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 85 p 6

[Text]

THE Working People's Alliance (WPA) said at a Press conference yesterday

it will not appoint agents to accompany ballot boxes from polling places at the end of Monday's polling.

6 February 1986

The Press conference, described by WPA officials as the last before Polling Day, focused on a range of matters, and featured contributions by WPA members in attendance, including Presidential Candidate Eusi Kwayana.

Among the matters raised was the pre-Polling Day balloting by the Disciplined Services, the appointment of polling, counting and other agents by the WPA,

and election broadcasts by the WPA.

The WPA "does not want to be part of any agreement which suggests that the issue of fairness has been resolved, when it is not resolved," the party said in explaining why its agents will not accompany ballot boxes, unless there was first a preliminary count at the polling places.

In response to opposition allegations about the

tampering with ballot boxes, President Desmond Hoyte has publicly invited Opposition parties to exercise their right to accompany the boxes.

Meanwhile, the WPA, the conference was told, has "no time or opportunity" to get in contact with persons who can serve as polling agents, and will therefore only have these representatives in some of the polling places. (GNA)

NDF Broadcast

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 85 p 5 "

[Text]

NATIONAL Democratic Front (NDF) Presidential Candidate Joseph Bacchus said Thursday night "Guyana is in trouble and only the National Democratic Front can bring economic stability with no trade barriers."

In the single election broadcast allocated to the party on GBC, the candidate said the NDF "is a political party of the people, for the people and by the people."

His party, he said, will

"encourage, foster and maintain a stable government, to ensure that our economic gains will be further enhanced. . ."

"Our policies are clear. We believe in God; we believe in democracy; we believe in the genuine investment of both local and foreign investors."

If elected, the NDF would, among other things, cause "the return of food, medicine and drugs," bring down the cost of living, bring down the cost of building materials, debar

heads of corporations and ministries from Trades Union Congress executive positions, encourage and reactivate "all local and foreign processing plants," raise "the rates of wages and salaries to offset inflation brought about by the PNC," upgrade efficiency at State agencies, bring down interest rates, and improve transportation.

"We are not socialist, we are not communist, Leninist, or Marxist, but democrats," the NDF leader said.

United Force Broadcast

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 85 p 9

[Text] A United Force (UF) government would bring in more foreign companies to operate in Guyana with the assurance that there would be no nationalisation and the assurance that they would be allowed a fair return on their investment, UF Presidential candidate Marcellus Feilden-Singh said Friday night.

He was making his party's second and final election broadcast.

"Guyanese have been taught by the socialist to regard capitalism as a dirty word. The truth is that it is only private monopoly capitalism of the exploitative type and state monopoly capitalism that are bad, not the people's enterprise capitalism advocated by the United Force," he said in his ten-minute broadcast.

He contended that in 1964, Guyanese voted for race and this was responsible for the UF getting only 7 seats.

"If only Guyanese had voted for policy, then the UF with its ideology of people's enterprise capitalism, and its manifesto, "highway to happiness", would have swept the polls. And since the government is big business, d'Aguiar as an astute businessman, would have made Guyana one of the richest countries in the Caribbean," the UF leader said.

He added: "the UF can still do this, if you vote for us..."

He said that in 1964 the UF "had to choose between the lesser of two evils, and their choice was made relatively simple because the PPP had openly declared it was communist and were calling the UF dirty capitalists, whereas at that time PNC was preaching anti-communism.

He said that under the coalition peace returned to the country and with Peter d'Aguiar as Minister of Finance money flowed in from the western capitalist countries to finance a number of projects.

Mr. Singh also devoted some time sharing his views about some of the political parties contesting the elections.

"The PPP has a record of boycott. They boycott the independence conference in 1964--they boycott Parliament after the 1973 elections. If was the UF who kept the doors of democracy and the multi-party system open for them to crawl back in Parliament in 1976 to give "Critical Support" to the PNC.

"They boycott the 1979 constituent assembly and it was the UF who made representation to have the PNC's draft constitution changed to allow Guyanese ownership, not only of dwelling houses, but also "the land on which they stood."

He pointed out that it was the WPA's presidential candidate who during the racial violence of the 1960's advocated partition of Guyana. "Surely he cannot now represent all the races in Guyana," he said.

"The DLM has resorted to abusing me personally because I objected to their use of the star, with its points resembling the sun...but before that they wrote asking me to join with them in contesting the elections and we rejected them. They asked the PPP also and were rejected. So you can dismiss this overnight party," he advised.

"As regards the PDM, their presidential candidate is the person who was the PNC Minister of Home Affairs in charge of the infamous 1968 elections," he continued.

He urged the electorate to vote only once. And he added: "If you put your 'X' next to the 'Sun' on December 9 then we can look forward to a full life in the shining dawn of tomorrow."

Jagan Defense of Churches

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 5

[Text] 'I have noticed' said Presidential Candidate Cheddi Jagan, 'with growing disgust the tendency within recent weeks of the People's National Congress and its leadership to respond to legitimate concerns expressed by church leaders here and in the West Indies for the health and preservation of democracy in Guyana with the most insulting and scurrilous abuse.'

The PNC may consider it necessary in the interests of its own preservation to rig elections every five years in Guyana. It cannot however be denied that in doing so it commits a political act which is unprecedented and unequalled in the history of the independent West Indies and is of great regional and international importance. The regional and international nature of this act is illustrated by the fact that Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret or equivalent free voting procedures."

This Declaration is regarded by the General Assembly as part of the 'law of the United Nations'. Guyana is an active member of that body. Yet, every time a reputable regional or international public figure or organisation expresses concern at, or interest in, the problem of free elections, the most insulting abuse is hurled at them by the PNC and its government agencies, screaming of 'interference' in our affairs.

The recent savage attacks by the PNC and the PNC controlled media on local and regional church leaders proves the connection between the fraudulence of our elections and the degradation of our political culture. I call upon the PNC to put an immediate stop to this practice, in the interests of the preservation of what is left to our political civilisation. I wish to assure the leaders of regional and local Christian churches and other religious organisations of the respect of the People's Progressive Party, which will continue to defend their right to express their legitimate concern at the state of democracy in Guyana.'

Jagan Broadcast

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

LEADER of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) Dr. Cheddi Jagan Friday night delivered the last of his party's seven political broadcasts on the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) contending that his is the only party that "has a sane alternative."

He spent some time comparing Guyana of today with Guyana under the PPP's rule which ended 21 years ago and when "one large tin of sardines was selling for 20 cents and three yards of cloth for a dollar."

And, contending that the

PNC "has bankrupted Guyana" he said the PPP is "the only party with a consistent position" and which "since 1960 ... knew what was wanted and how to get there."

He added: "a national patriotic front government of all left and democratic

forces is the only sane alternative. We are confident of the future."

He said that with the PNC, the Guyanese people will have neither "good, honest, dedicated leadership" nor "sound people-oriented policies and programme."

In his broadcast Dr. Jagan, 87, launched a broadside against the government referring to the leadership of the PNC as members of a "self-serving ruling elite."

He also made some very uncomplimentary remarks about the Leader and Presidential Candidate of the PNC, President Desmond Hoyte who he said was in

the driver's seat these last crucial years.

In addition, he accused the PNC of degrading Guyana, of massive and flagrantly rigged elections, of "once again preparing to sell out our country to the IMF/ World Bank," of feeding Guyanese with promises and propaganda.

Life, he contended, has become "a nightmare with an ever-rising cost of living, never-ending shortages of essential goods, growing malnutrition, run-down medical facilities and schools growing numbers of failures at examinations and school drop outs, violent crime and depressed wages."

The PPP, he said, "is for racial and working class

unity and is an advocate of "winner-does-not-take-all" politics.

Dr. Jagan also repeated his call for ballots to be counted at polling places.

On the question of violence he said: "We categorically deny charges that we are advocating or plan violence, we urge you not to impede in any way those responsible for the electoral processes in carrying out their legal duties."

And, before concluding, Dr. Jagan added: "In all the circumstances, only one party has a sane alternative. The PPP in government did it before — it improved the quality of life. It can do it again."

(GNA).

Hoyte Response to Jagan

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte last night expressed his disappointment at the response of PPP Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan to measures taken by the Government to remove possible causes for opposition complaint in relation to the elections.

It seems, he said, "they are interested in having a hobby horse to ride", referring to new demands by the PPP when their old complaints were addressed by legislation and other means.

The PPP's latest demand, he said, counting of ballot boxes at polling stations, an exercise he maintained has never taken place in the history of elections in Guyana, would be a "logistical nightmare".

The delay which such an exercise would entail in the election process, would possibly be the next complaint of the PPP in relation to the conduct of the elections, he said.

"I will not yield to every whim and caprice

of the General Secretary of the PPP," he stated, to supportive applause from the gathering.

"The action is here in Guyana. They are preparing an election campaign geared to overseas", the President and Party Leader said, adding that the actions of the opposition are aimed at creating excuses for loss, in advance.

"Some people are born losers, but not the People's National Congress," Cde. Hoyte added.

Police Peace-Keeping

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 85 pp 1, 10

[Text]

COMMISSIONER of Police Cde. Balram Raghbir has called out all ranks of the Guyana Police Force, including the Special Reserve Police and Rural Constables, in an effort to preserve the peace and have

police presence at all polling stations throughout the country.

The move will also provide for policing at various points of the country.

Cde Raghbir said that any attempt to disrupt the

peaceful conduct of the elections will be dealt with swiftly and firmly, and all ranks of the Criminal Investigation Department have been fully mobilised.

The Commissioner said that the elections campaign was smooth and that there were very few incidents.

Cde. Raghubir said that ranks will be deployed throughout the populated areas of the country to ensure that law and order is maintained. He pointed out that the Special Reserve Police have been strengthened to ensure that adequate members of ranks are available for duty.

The Commissioner said that at least one policeman will be posted at every polling station and in areas where there is heavy voting there will be more.

The police will ensure that no one is prevented from going to the polls to exercise the right to vote. There will be adequate arrangements to ensure the smooth flow of traffic throughout the day.

Cde. Raghubir said that since the announcement of the elections date more than 700 applications to hold meetings had been received by the police.

He said that there was need to ask political parties

to reschedule a few meetings because there were instances of two or more parties making requests to hold meetings at the same time and place.

The Commissioner advised that people go to the polls early and return home immediately after voting and await the results of the elections at home.

He said it was quite true that the Police would be protecting homes while people are at the polling places but felt that voters should return home to assist in ensuring that criminals do not try to enter their buildings.

Vote-Counting Strictures

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 85 pp 1, 10

[Text]

THE Elections Commission yesterday issued instructions stressing that all persons exercising or performing duties connected with or relating to tomorrow's elections must comply strictly with the "applicable provisions of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03."

In particular, they must comply strictly with the provisions relating to the poll and the counting of votes. Commission Chairman Harold Bollers stressed in a circular sent to the Chief Election Officer.

The circular also stipulates the procedure to be followed in facilitating the accompanying of ballot boxes (by polling agents of parties contesting the elections) from polling places to the counting centres at the end of polling.

Opposition parties have been expressing fears about the security of the ballot boxes after the close of the polls on December 9. However, from the outset, President Desmond Hoyte had stressed that the parties

contesting the elections are entitled to accompany the boxes to the counting centres, as indeed, they were entitled at the 1980 elections.

And at a public meeting at the Square of the Revolution on November 3, Cde. Hoyte publicly invited and encouraged the opposition parties to send representatives to accompany the boxes.

The circular issued yesterday, under the signature of the Chairman of the Elections Commission, Cde. Harold Bollers states:

"All persons exercising or performing duties connected with or relating to the forthcoming elections should comply strictly with the applicable provisions of the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 1:03, and in particular, with the provisions thereof relating to the poll and the counting of votes."

"With respect to the period beginning with the closing of the polls and ending with the delivery of ballot boxes to the counting centre, the Presiding Officer shall permit a polling agent

of a political party contesting the elections to accompany the ballot box or boxes from the polling place to the counting centre, provided that in his opinion there is no security risk and he is able to provide suitable accommodation in the vehicle conveying the ballot box or boxes to the counting centre.

"Where room is not available to accommodate all polling agents who wish to be accommodated in the vehicle, they may agree to be represented in the vehicle by such number of them as may be therein accommodated. If there is no such agreement, the Presiding Officer may select such of them as can be accommodated."

"Those polling agents who have not been able to secure accommodation in the vehicle conveying the boxes, may, if they wish to, do so, follow the vehicle from the polling place to the counting centre."

Charge of 'Irregularities'

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 7 Dec 85 p 3

[Text]

In a statement issued on December 5, WPA outlined five major irregularities of the disciplined forces poll held on Tuesday, December 3. By dint of sheer persistence, WPA managed to have five polling stations partly monitored. The voting by special procedure was described as "indeed special, and disorderly - not at all doing credit to the reputation of disciplined forces for order".

"Firstly, the polling places decided upon for this poll were all military workplaces. These Guyanese were forced to vote in a general elections in their work atmosphere and at the beck and call of their officers. The voting therefore cannot be considered free.

"Secondly, the lack of communication from electoral officials and the special ballot officers to the political parties is almost criminal. There seemed to be a plot to prevent political parties from knowing how to proceed with the appointment and assignment of this branch of polling agents.

"Thirdly, no political party has a voters' list of the specified disciplined forces voting by special procedure. Parties are therefore completely in the dark about the total number of voters who will be said to have voted on December 3. At most stations, ballot officers refused to let the polling agents take voters' lists back to their respect-

ive parties. Nor was there any exposure or testing of the lists for accuracy.

"Moreover, it is understood that while only the Guyana Defence Force and the Police were gazetted for voting by special procedure, in actual fact, the National Guard Service, the Guyana National Service and the People's Militia, or large sections of them, voted. (The National Guard Service appears to be a privately owned service run by politically connected security officials and retired security personnel.)

"Fourthly, the time schedules of the voting were not upheld. They were hours behind the fixed times. For many hours of the day batches of voters' lists were unavailable to the polling stations. Such untidiness is scandalous to say the least. There are too many doubts and areas of suspicion for the comfort of political parties. The WPA is most unhappy.

"Fifthly, there are disturbing reports of recycling of the security force voters under the command of higher officers. This is supported by one case of impersonation detected by the FDM. ...

"Additionally, long before the voting, many of the forces were addressed by their officers who told them they were obliged to vote for "the government of the day" - thus violating the constitution and making the members of the forces political serfs. ..."

Arrest of WPA Observers

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 7 Dec 85 p 3

[Text]

Mr Fitzroy Valentine and Mr Charles Johnson, two polling agents for the

WPA List of Candidates, were arrested yesterday morning allegedly for painting "Vote WPA" signs on the road. Up to press time, late Saturday afternoon, they were still in the custody of the police who are refusing to release them on bail. Last week's OPEN WORD reported the swift release by the police, without the laying of charges, of PNC men who defaced a lamp pole, assaulted WPA's Election Agent, Mr Moses Bhagwan and stole a drum and documents belonging to him. The police refused to institute charges.

Election 'Rigging' Charge

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 7 Dec 85 p 2

[Text]

Reports reaching OPEN WORD say that the rigging plans for Election Day will depend heavily on the presiding officers who have been receiving rigorous training from Home Affairs. The plans include the non-availability of lists and the destruction of all evidence. Polling agents will not be allowed to take away lists or notes. Spoiled votes will be dealt with in a special way. The main thrust seems to be the doing away of any documentary evidence.

The WPA, in an assessment of the impact of the "reforms" made by the President, had pointed out that the measures in the area of the overseas, postal and proxy voting had much to do with removing areas of fraud which could be documented.

Presiding officers, many of whom still do not know where they are assigned, are being instructed to remove agents from polling places for a period, so they can make themselves "comfortable". The idea is to

do what has to be done during this period, to avoid the need for any massive switching operation.

Skits and role play are part of the instruction techniques.

The riggers' chief worry is if their officers can be relied on for effective management of the fraud.

December 3 Voting 'Irregularities'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The December 3 voting of the Disciplined Forces as shown in clear terms the hasty methods used by the ruling party which have ended in numerous inadequacies and faults that start the general elections on a bad footing.

The political parties other than the PNC received information about the polling places for the Disciplined Forces at 3:50 p.m. the day before balloting commenced. The parties were obliged to submit the names of polling agents by 6 p.m., giving them exactly 2 hours and 10 minutes to perform the functions of finding 25 polling agents in areas far inside the interior of Guyana.

Most balloting places were inaccessible to any party. Not even telephone communications exist and it would take days to send in persons by plane, if [word indistinct] all they would ever get bookings.

Nevertheless, the PPP managed to post polling agents to 10 of the 25 balloting places. These included Whim, New Amsterdam, Fort Wellington, Leonora, Grove, Suddie, Cove & John, Camp Ayangana and 2 stations at Eve Leary. However, the polling agent sent to Cove & John was not permitted to take up his post, so that only 9 balloting places had PPP polling agents and there were one or two from the other parties in some stations.

No lists of voters were provided, as should have been done, in advance of voting on December 3. Instead, polling agents were provided with lists in the stations, but these were taken away when they left. The PPP had made formal requests for lists to the Elections Commission and the Chief Elections Officer.

It had been announced that the voting would be restricted to members of the Guyana Defence Force and the Police, but this was altered and members of the National Guard, some just rural constables, and members of the Guyana National Service were permitted to vote.

One of the PPP's 9 polling agents, the one at Camp Ayangana, was removed from the balloting place during the period of voting, but on strong protests from the party's representative on the Elections Commission, Clement Rohee, he was later reinstated.

Polling agents were allowed to accompany the 9 ballot boxes to the Public Buildings where they are being stored in the Election Commission Office. The balance of boxes have arrived at varying times from the interior, totally unobserved by any political party. The PPP has [word indistinct] up a guard system at Public Buildings, although they were removed from the spot originally arranged between Celement Rohee and other members of the Elections Commission.

Rohee stated that he was dissatisfied with the point at which observers are kept, two rooms away from the storage point. He has also expressed disgust at the way the PNC has used a photograph of himself in one of its ads, making

it appear that he is happy about the arrangements. "This is not so" said Rohee. A lot of things have been irregular. It further proves the point made by the PPP in Parliament when many colleagues voted against the Bill making special arrangements for voting by the Disciplined Forces.'

PPP Voting Proposals

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 7

[Text] On Saturday, November 30, the PPP issued the following press release, again expressing its fears that the ruling party would again practice fraud in the elections which takes place tomorrow.

At this late hour the ruling party is still refusing to give up its overwhelming control over the elections machinery. Strong demands at home and abroad for crucial demands of an independent elections commission, a pure voters' list and the counting of ballots at the place of poll have not been met.

Past experiences have shown that without these guarantees the conduct of the upcoming elections would be highly suspect. Our Party makes this final appeal to President Desmond Hoyte to demonstrate a willingness to be guided by good sense. Our country cannot afford the trauma of another rigged election.

There are many worrying aspects related to the elections. The PPP's vote against the Representation of the People's (Amendment) Act in the National Assembly has proven to be one of substance. The security forces will vote on December 3 under conditions which the party warned would be susceptible to manipulation. No lists of voters polling places have been put up. The contesting parties have no guarantees that they can monitor the voting. There will be no counting of the ballots at the places of poll and the ballot boxes will be in the sole possession of the presiding officer. This is obviously opened to fraud.

Malpractices

As far as the December 9 elections are concerned there are many mal-practices. By November 26, according to law, returning officers should have put up locations of polling places in each electoral district and other requirements stated in a PPP release of November 27. This is a most disgusting situation. The Elections Commission must do its work.

Despite assurances from the President, the Party is faced with numerous obstacles in carrying out its work. Especially difficult in getting into interior areas. Most flights are either booked by the ruling party or private interests. Party representatives are finding it difficult to enter Amerindian areas. The Party feels that these areas should be opened for normal access like on the coastland.

Despite these difficulties the Party is doing its best to carry out its campaign in a sober way. The ruling party has resorted to manipulation and trickery in attempts to frustrate opposition parties, but we do not expect better.

We have put forward certain proposals to the Elections Commission which we reiterate here. They are:

- (1) That my party be permitted to inspect the ballot boxes before election day.
- (2) A proper examination of the boxes, including measurement of the inside and outside dimensions of the boxes by opposition polling agents before polling commences.
- (3) At the close of poll, the ballot boxes should be securely covered by paper being pasted over the aperture and signed by the Presiding Officer and representatives of political parties who should also be allowed to affix their seals.
- (4) That the boxes should be strapped several times with adhesive or other such tape over which the representatives of political parties should be allowed to affix sealing wax with their seals and signatures at spots chosen by them.
- (5) That the boxes be kept at all times between the close of polling and the end of counting in the view of the agents of the opposition parties, and that, for this purpose, any boxes being moved to the counting centre must be continuously in the view of opposition parties' polling agents to the counting centre until met by opposition parties' counting agents and duly appointed candidates at the counting centre.
- (6) That a PPP agent and at least one agent from the other opposition parties be allowed in the same vehicle, boat or aircraft, etc., conveying the ballot boxes to the place of count. The Presiding Officer, a policeman, PNC polling agent and two from the opposition parties will fit comfortably in the vehicle or any other mode of transport.
- (7) That the boxes must be taken straight into the area where the counting is to take place and not secluded for any time whatever in a back room or other area to which such opposition agents have no access.
- (8) That there should be no removal of the boxes from the view of opposition party agents at any time, and particularly at the time of handover to the counting centre.
- (9) That at the time of counting, every box must be examined and opened in the presence of the parties' duly appointed candidates and counting agents to ensure that the seals, etc. are not broken and that the boxes have not in any way been tampered with.
- (10) That these directions be given immediately in writing to the Chief Elections Officer, Returning Officers and Presiding Officers and copied to all political parties contesting the elections. Further that these directions be publicised well in advance in the press and radio.

(11) That a copy of the directions be sent to the Chief of the armed forces and the Commissioner of Police, and the Commission request from President Hoyte in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and the Major General and the Commissioner of Police that an order of the day be issued and published in the media instructing all armed forces and police under their command to permit opposition parties' polling agents to accompany ballot boxes and counting agents and duly appointed candidates to have access to the counting centres, and particularly to all areas in which ballot boxes are and may be kept at all times, both before and during the counting of ballots.

Joint PPP-WPA Letter

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 7

[Text] The People's Progressive Party and the Working People's Alliance, sent a letter to the Elections Commission on the issue of a preliminary count of ballots at the place of poll. They had also requested a meeting with the Commission. The text of the letter follows:

1. Like the Commission and the Chief Elections Officer we are of the view that the law permits the votes to be counted at the place of poll. We also feel that the Commission has the power to order that such a count take place.
2. At our last meeting on [word indistinct] November 8, 1985, the argument arose as to the meaning of the phrase 'general direction and supervision' contained in Article 162 of the Constitution which refers to the powers of the Elections Commission.
3. Any responsibility for supervision places the moral responsibility for the job on the supervisor, who cannot refuse to intervene during the process and at the end, when the stairway collapses or the ship sinks, blame the workforce or the sailor. The supervisor will have to accept moral responsibility. Yet no supervisor has the backing of legislation so clearly as the Elections Commission has in the Constitution.
4. In case there is doubt about the intention of the framers of the Constitutions in the use of the words 'general direction and supervision' regarding the registration of voters, we refer to Section 21 (2) of the Act No 2 of 1980. IN this enactment, there is a reference to 'the list of electors prepared by the Elections Commission'. Even when we consider the purpose of Act No. 2 in the short title, it must be conceded that there are not two lists of electors in Guyana--one prepared by the Elections Commission and some other list. Our two parties rely on the reference in Section 21 (2) of Act 2 of 1980 as persuasive.
5. Under Article 62 of the Constitution, 'elections shall be independently supervised by the Elections Commission in accordance with the provisions of Article 162'. Article 162 in turn clothes the Elections Commission with full moral and constitutional responsibility for the conduct of registration and

and even, more directly, of elections. There is no other enactment anywhere transferring or limiting this moral and constitutional responsibility of the Elections Commission.

6. Article 162 confers power on parliament to enact legislation but such legislation must be in accordance with the Constitution and subject thereto. It can in no way reduce powers granted in Article 162 (a) or (b). This principle is recognised by Section 4 of the Representation of the People Chapter 1:03 which, very aptly, provides that "the Commission shall have, in addition to the functions assigned to it by the Constitution, such functions as are assigned to it by this Act and, in the execution of this Act, such authority of the Commission as is exercised in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitutions shall be duly deferred to'.

7. If our reliance on the supremacy of the Constitution is correct, it follows that both morally and constitutionally the Elections Commission has the duty of concerning itself with allegations of unfairness which must include expressed fears of partiality, sleights of hand, illicit custody, tampering and other irregularities which will have the effect of distorting the expressed will of the electorate.

8. In view of the moral and constitutional responsibility of the Elections Commission, we do not feel that it is appropriate merely to 'trust' a particular officer who may be acting under political orders or pressure and who may be unable or unwilling to protest. All officers concerned with the conduct of the elections are accountable to the Elections Commission and we rely on the Commission as the sole authority empowered to ensure impartiality and fairness which can be done by the issuing of the necessary directions without [words indistinct] the functions of any other officer provided for under any law.

9. Our two parties, and several others, are of the opinion that there will be no fairness unless there is a preliminary count at the place of poll immediately after the closing of the poll. It is not helpful to offer as a solution that parties accompanying ballot boxes and at the same time question whether they have the capacity to do so. Fairness cannot hang on arrangements for which it is known in advance the opposition parties have no capacity.

10. The People's Progressive Party and the Working People's Alliance strongly recommend that the Elections Commission should exercise its moral and constitutional responsibility by ordering a preliminary count at the place of poll. Such instructions will not discriminate between those with total capacity and those with less than total or little capacity.

Disruptions at PPP Meetings

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 8

[Text] The PPP has sent a letter to Police Commissioner Balram Raghubir, protesting over inadequate police action to protect a PPP meeting from PNC violence at Laing Avenue, in Georgetown. The meeting took place on Sunday

night. December 1, and was addressed by PPP Executives [word indistinct] Teixeira and Clinton Collymore. A handful of PNC holligans showed up early and commenced loud heckling, and stone throwing. Sand was also thrown.

As small pebbles failed to influence the speakers, the PNC activists changed to big rocks which hit the vehicle on which the rostrum was situated and also hit innocent listeners who immediately demanded police action. The police half-heartedly removed a few of the troublemakers but missiles still came from the dark. In any case the meeting went on, despite the fact that both speakers and the chairman were also hit by the missiles.

The PPP letter pointed out to the Commissioner that both he and President Hoyte had given the nation solemn assurance of a 'peaceful campaign' and that law breakers would not be tolerated.

The PPP protest letter to the Police Chief urged him to investigate the incident, and to ensure that his directives are carried out by his subordinates at police stations all over the country. In the case of the Laing Avenue incident, there was a police outpost a mere 50 yards away from where the meeting was being held.

Ballot Box Issue

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 8

[Text] Statement by Clement Rohee--Representative of the PPP on the Elections Commission.

As the Representative of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) on the Elections Commission, I wish to dissociate myself from the GNA news releases published in the Guyana Chronicle of December 2 and 3 respectively.

The release stated that 'members of the Election Commission have expressed their satisfaction with the ballot boxes to be used on the December 9 elections...' May I point out that the Elections Commission which comprises of Sir Harold Bollers, chairman; Mr. Stanley Moore, PNC Representative; Clement Rohee, PPP Representative and Mr. L. P. Ferreira, Secretary; did visit the National Registration offices where the ballot boxes were being stored, but, contrary to what was reported in the newspaper and radio, at no time and in no way whatsoever did I as a Member of the Commission say that I was satisfied with the construction of, or materials with which, the boxes were constructed.

In fact, when called upon to express a view on the boxes, I specifically told Sir Harold in the presence of other members of the Commission and Mr. Roy Hammond, Chief Elections Officer, that I do not consider the boxes tamper-proof. This is my considered opinion since the boxes are roughly constructed and because of many boxes there are sizeable crevices which could allow for the use of an appropriate instrument to prise open sections of such defective boxes and therefore cause the ballots in the box to be tampered with.

And even though I did not express at the time this opinion to Chairman of the Commission, it later occurred to me that the boxes which we examined at the National Registration Centre are in no way different from those used in previous elections which, as everybody knows, were not tamper-proof.

It was for these reasons that I expressed my dissatisfaction with the ballot boxes. The GNA news releases which appeared in the state-owned media therefore do not reflect the view of the entire, but a part of the Elections Commission's membership.

Military 'Intervention'

George MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 8

[Text] The new PNC leader Desmond Hoyte has accused Opposition Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan with "villifying" and "besmirching" the security forces by alleging that they had intervened in previous elections.

But Hoyte has only to look over his shoulder to get corroborative evidence of what Dr. Jagan is alleging from his own party General Secretary and Vice-President in the government bureaucracy, Ranji Chandisingh.

Chandisingh had contended that "one of the most notorious and glaring features of Guyanese society in recent years, is the heavy rigging of elections, from the 1968 general election, culminating in the army intervention of the July 16, 1973 election."

Chandisingh had arrived at that conclusion in the course of a public lecture of the theme "Socialism and Democracy" which was published in the April-August 1975 issue of Thunder, the PPP's theoretical journal of which he was then Editor.

The heavy rigging and army intervention, Chandisingh had said, systematically thwarted the will of the masses at all levels of representative government. This was, he stressed, "the use of the military-bureaucratic state machine to deny the masses of working people a representative government of their choice".

What Chandisingh had said then would be true too for today's development. He has recognised that "the PNC regime is faced with the contradiction of wanting to hold on to absolute power, unshared power, without having the majority of working people behind it."

Chandisingh, who was to defect to the PNC just one year after that profoundly impressive lecture had underlined the real reasons for rigging and army intervention in Guyana's elections. Political power was in the hands of a petty-bourgeois national intelligentsia and bureaucratic capitalist elite. "And they are bent on diverting effective power away from the working people, of preventing power from falling into the working people's hands."

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Jagan on Race Issue

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 3

[Text] The People's Progressive Party has never resorted to violence and racial politics, declared its leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, while addressing students and members of the academic community at a symposium at the University of Guyana campus on November 28.

"If anything can be said of me, it is that I united the people of this country in the 1950's," he told an attentive audience. He recalled that the PNC, having split the PPP in 1955 and losing subsequently the 1957 and 1961 general elections, resorted to violence. It was the PNC, he said, which labelled the PPP government a "coolie" and "rice" government because of its emphasis on agriculture.

He lashed out at the ruling party for joining with local conservatives and the Central Intelligence Agency in fomenting racial and political unrest to destabilise the PPP government. In 1964 the PNC showed its true colours by joining with the right-wing United Force, instead of the PPP, which gained the highest votes at the elections.

He deemed as "ridiculous" allegations that the PPP instigated the strife. "Imagine the PPP, destabilising itself!" he said. He referred to the large arms cache found at PNC locations, the infamous X-13 plan aimed at organising strikes, arson and killings. Scores of PNC members were named by the police as part of this terrorist plan. The PNC's campaign platform of "Peace Not Conflict" fools no one.

But that is now the past. If the PPP wins the elections, Dr. Jagan said, it will not do what the PNC did in 1964 i.e. link up with reactionaries. The PPP will bring together all genuine patriotic, democratic and left forces in both the parliament and government under a revolutionary democratic republic.

He said that the PNC would not give up power easily, though it realises that with only the support of some 10 per cent of the people and the military, it cannot develop the country. "Life is sweet up there," he said. The audience applauded in approval.

Dr. Jagan said that had the PPP believed in racial politics it would not have called a decade ago for a National Patriotic Front Government. The reason for that was that "we as patriots wanted to prevent a bloody civil war." The PNC rejected the calls for unity, but the PPP worked patiently and persistently for racial and working class unity.

In his prognosis, the PPP general Secretary said the PNC is out to wreck the emerging unity and once again sell out to imperialism and the local capitalist class. The PNC, he explained, is a petty bourgeois party and has ambitions of replacing the big bourgeoisie in the country. And a section of the capitalist class, along with the dominant conservative capitalists in the PNC, want a deal with imperialism instead of agreeing to broad unity in the country and

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take a socialist-oriented course, the only [word indistinct] option opened today. All indications point to another deal with the IMF and a possible 25% devaluation of the dollar. Dr. Jagan urged the audience to be more active politically since students and academics can play an active and positive role in the struggles ahead. While general elections are here, he said the struggle for a broad-based government continues. The PPP will seek broad alliances, but at the same time will struggle for a political solution.

Other invitees to participate in the symposium, the WPA and PNC, did not turn up. There was an enthusiastic response from students who asked several questions. A few PNC-ites were at the meeting and attempted to whitewash the ills of the PNC and confusing historical facts. One such confusion-monger, former YSM chairman and former PNC parliamentarian, now at UG, was told by Dr. Jagan to "study and learn."

Catholic Support for PNC

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 8 Dec 85 p 6

[Text]

THE general membership of the Catholic Church in Guyana has pledged full support to Comrade Leader and the People's National Congress at tomorrow's elections and has accused the leaders of the church for misrepresenting the views of the general membership.

At a meeting last week hosted by the Charismatic Group of the church, the members told Prime Minister, Cde. Hamilton Green that the stance taken by Bishop Benedict Singh was not necessarily representative of the church.

In many cases he was expressing his personal views. The group also criticised Andrew Morrison and the Catholic Standard

for the negative line they take against the progressive initiatives and programmes undertaken on behalf of all the people.

The relatives of Jose Da Silva and Compton Young, who were very vocal at the meeting with the Prime Minister, said that they will be supporting the tried and proven Government and it is only the PNC that can bring further development to the country.

And Prime Minister, Cde. Hamilton Green, in the discourse with rank and file members of the Catholic Church said that the Party and Government, embarked on a deliberate programme 21 years ago, to change the status quo in this country. Suddenly, the church leaders find that their interests collide with those of the government and they tend

to become controversial.

Cde. Green pointed out that the PNC and Government are prepared to have serious dialogue with all groups of concerned citizens provided the anthem of the discussion is truth and the message is the further development of the Guyanese society based on the economic and social conditions prevailing at this particular juncture of the country's development.

Cde. Green said that the PNC had initiated talks with the People's Progressive Party about ways and means of overcoming some of the country's problems and sees absolutely no reason why the PNC cannot have talks with the Catholic Church leaders toward the same end.

Hoyte on Worker Benefits

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Dec 85 pp 4-5

[Excerpts]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte said yesterday that the recently concluded wages accord under which most public sector workers will receive retroactive pay before Christmas is a practical example of the Government's abiding concern for the welfare of the working people.

It is also a practical example of "our rational approach to issues — an approach that facilitates consensus and good relations," the Leader of the People's National Congress declared in the last of his Party's political broadcasts aired just before noon yesterday and rebroadcast last night. In the broadcast, Cde. Hoyte said:

In conditions of peace, we Guyanese have grown in maturity as a nation. Today we are able to ignore superficial differences among us, emphasise our community of interests and aspirations, and co-operate one with another in our own and our country's best interest. In Pandit Tiwari's words, we are "at peace with ourselves and at peace with our fellow citizens." That is why the overwhelming majority of our citizens believe, with the People's National Congress, that we cannot afford confrontation, conflict, confusion and chaos in our national life. That is why, too, our Party has so steadfastly pursued the path of co-operation and consensus.

And this brings me to the wage accord which the TUC has recently concluded with the Government.

When the Government invited the TUC to open discussions on a new wage package for public sector workers for the year 1985, many sceptics predicted that there would be no agreement, that the talks would collapse.

DIALOGUE

The differences between the parties were too great, they asserted. But they did not reckon with the tried and proved policy of the People's National Congress. We have never approached any issue with a closed mind: we have always been committed to courteous and constructive dialogue as the most effective means of reconciling differences. And so, in the talks, the Government side showed patience, tolerance, goodwill and a spirit of "give-and-take" and, eventually, an accord satisfactory to both sides was reached. The parties agreed not merely on a wage package for 1985 but also for 1986; and the increased emoluments under the 1985 agreement are already being paid out to workers and most of them will receive their retroactive pay before Christmas.

CONSENSUS

This is a practical example of our abiding concern for the welfare of our working-people and of our rational approach to issues — an approach that facilitates

consensus and good relations.

As a Government, we have always been concerned to ensure progressive improvements in the incomes of all Guyanese who produce, and in their material and cultural wellbeing. And, surely, among the most important of our citizens who produce are our farmers. All over this country, we have seen how our farmers have grown in material prosperity, in self-esteem and in national prestige; how many of them have been publicly acclaimed for their outstanding contribution to national development. And this explains why Cde. Abdul Hamid Khan, himself a farmer and the holder of the Golden Arrow of Achievement, was able to say with great pride and honesty that never in the history of our country were farmers so prosperous and so respected.

Conditions of peace have brought us many blessings. That is why I find it so difficult to understand the mentality of those political types who have been trying to promote in our country. What we are witnessing here in such people is their nostalgia for conflict, confusion and chaos. These people are dangerous to themselves and dangerous to the nation.

WPA on Unity Government

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

Presidential Candidate of the Working People's Alliance, Eusi Kwayana said last night that should the WPA win today's elections, the party's first task would be to establish a national government of unity and reconstruction.

He told a WPA public meeting at Kitty that a WPA Government would reintroduce religious education

in schools and would work towards the strengthening of the moral fibre of the nation.

He repeated a number of WPA criticisms of and allegations against the PNC Government which he described as "Babylon" and which, he predicted, will fall.

Rupert Roopnarine, another WPA candidate, said that during the campaign, the WPA held more

than 100 meetings covering from Crabwood Creek to Charity.

He also complained about the WPA not receiving supplementary lists of voters and identification cards for its agents for today's elections.

Also speaking at the meeting was Karen De Souza, who spoke about the WPA's 32-page manifesto.

Jagan Rally

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

PEOPLE'S Progressive Party Presidential Candidate, Dr. Cheddi Jagan last night lamented that there has not been a general strike here in Guyana.

He was speaking at a PPP public meeting at Chateau Margot on the eve of today's elections.

Dr. Jagan told the gathering that "if George Daniels (President of the TUC) was here today, we would have had a different story."

"We would have had a general strike not only for \$25 a day but a general strike for free and fair elections and a political solution," he told the meeting.

He predicted that the PPP will win the elections and set up a broad-based Government. This prediction was based on the number of persons "who have been attending PPP meetings throughout the country."

The PPP Leader also said that the economic situation in the country was not due to the world crisis, but rather to the refusal of the PNC to react favourably to an invitation from the PPP in 1977 and 1978, to form a broad-based Government, and from the failure of that Party to take advantage of an offer from the USSR to help develop the local bauxite and gold industries because of pressure from

the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He predicted a low turnout at the polls in Georgetown and appealed to his supporters to line up in the hundreds at the polling stations so that "if they rob us, the world will know. And when this country starts moving, we will get support from outside."

He continued: "When we win the elections we are not going to run the Government alone. We are going to invite the churches, businessmen, trade unionists and farmers into Parliament, so that everybody's voice will be heard."

Police 'Rescue' of Jagan

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 85 pp 1, 6

[Text]

A BRITISH journalist, Anthony Jenkins yesterday stated that while accompanying the General Secretary of the PPP, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, on a tour of election polling places, he and Dr. Jagan were assaulted by unidentified armed persons, his tape recorder and notes stolen from him and that he was, subsequently, along with Dr. Jagan, arrested by the Police and his camera seized by the Police.

The Prime Minister, Comrade Hamilton Green, at a news conference, some hours after the incident was said to have occurred, and at which Mr. Jenkins was present, personally undertook to have the matter investigated.

The Commissioner of Police, Comrade Balram Raghubir, has issued the following statement as a result of the investigation.

"The General Secretary of the PPP, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, at 13:40 hrs. yesterday accompanied by a British citizen, who subsequently identified himself to the Police as Mr. Anthony Jenkins, entered a polling place at Haslington on the East Coast of Demerara.

Dr. Jagan approached the Presiding Officer and demanded that she allow an unregistered person to vote. The Presiding Officer quite properly refused to do so. Dr. Jagan became incensed, raised his voice, and waved his hands about wildly and pointed his finger in the young woman's face

A policewoman on duty intervened and warned Dr. Jagan that he was in breach of the law and requested him to leave the polling station. He refused to do so, and shouted at the policewoman.

In the meantime Mr. Jenkins was taking photographs of the incident and recording it. While this incident was taking place, the voting was held up. Dr. Jagan's behaviour, in particular his insensitive behaviour to two females angered the large number of persons who were waiting to vote. These persons expressed their disapproval by heckling, shouting at and surrounding Dr. Jagan and Mr. Jenkins.

The timely appearance of a special two-man Police

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patrol saved what might have developed into an ugly scene. The patrol, comprising two constables, one armed and the other unarmed, extricated Dr Jagan and Mr. Jenkins from the angry crowd and escorted them to the nearest Police station at Cove and John.

After being questioned at the Police station, Dr. Jagan and Mr. Jenkins were allowed to leave the station at 14:00 hrs (20 minutes after the incident had occurred).

The Police retained temporary possession of Mr. Jenkins' camera but subsequently returned it.

Subsequent Police investigations have revealed that Mr. Jenkins had not officially availed himself of facilities provided by the Government to all visiting journalists to obtain accreditation and further had not satisfied immigration formalities required of him on entering Guyana.

I am satisfied that the Police officer on duty at the polling place acted correctly in the performance of her duties, and that the prompt action by the Police saved Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Mr. Jenkins from what otherwise might have been a

more serious incident provoked by their own indiscreet behaviour."

The Ministry of Home Affairs considers it regrettable that the otherwise peaceful conduct of the elections was marred by this single incident.

The Ministry considers it unfortunate that the British journalist had failed to conform with established procedures for the accreditation of journalists which enabled all other members of the foreign press to cover the elections without difficulty or hindrance.

Green on 'Fraud' Charges

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 85 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Opposition's "habit...to allege fraud and practise violence in anticipation of their losing an election", has not changed in this election, Prime Minister Hamilton Green said yesterday.

At a briefing with local and foreign journalists covering the elections, at Karmana Court, the Prime Minister dealt with opposition parties' accusations of irregularities in the preparations and actual conduct of polling.

He also referred to opposition parties' "inability to be properly represented" as the reason complaints had to be "generally conceived and in some cases manufactured".

A number of allegations were yesterday made by representatives of the People's Progressive Party, Working People's Alliance and Democratic Labour Movement, parties in opposition to the governing People's National Congress, that their Polling Agents have been denied legitimate entry to polling places and that in some instances their representatives have been forcibly ejected from polling places.

Prime Minister Hamilton Green met with the international and domestic press approximately one hour yesterday afternoon, in which he responded to these allegations and answered questions put by the Press.

The Prime Minister stated categorically that "violence and illegalities are not part of the People's National Congress' campaign." The Prime Minister said that "clear directives had been issued to our activists to do nothing outside the law nor the constitution nor the election regulations."

Violence

The Prime Minister pointed out that it has been the habit of the PPP, since 1961, when elections were conducted under the supervision of the British Colonial Government, to allege fraud and practise violence in anticipation of their losing an election. That pattern, the Prime Minister emphasised, has not changed in this election.

Prime Minister Green noted the fact that neither the PPP nor the WPA and certainly none of the other contesting Parties in opposition to the PNC has been able to place representatives, throughout the country in the 807 polling places.

The Prime Minister cited a number of areas in which the PPP, for instance, was unable, through lack of local support, to appoint election agents from the area, and were forced as a result to be represented by agents unfamiliar with local conditions.

The Prime Minister said that he was satisfied that the PPP and the WPA complaints were therefore generally conceived, and in some cases manufactured, in an effort to compensate for their inability to be properly represented at the polling places.

Isolated

The Prime Minister underlined the fact that the evidence presented by the opposition Parties in support of irregularities at the polling place, even if accepted without challenge, demonstrated that the incidents were isolated and minimal, and were grossly exaggerated in terms of the conduct of the elections at the 807 polling places. In fact, opposition complaints of irregularities have been able to cite evidence of this at less than 10 polling places.

Dealing with specific cases where opposition representatives were allegedly denied entry to polling places, the Prime Minister pointed out that in a number of these cases, the opposition representatives were not properly authorised and were subsequently allowed to perform their duties after proper authorisation was obtained.

The Prime Minister acknowledged that complaints regarding the difficulty of contacting the Chief Election Officer were not without justification, since he personally had been attempting to contact him for the greater part of the day.

The Prime Minister said he was unable to comment on allegations made by the PPP Party representative on the Elections Commission, Cde. Clement Rohee, that he was refused entry to a Polling Station by a police Officer on duty after presenting his authorisation, but that he would have the matter investigated immediately. Mr. Rohee subsequently admitted that he had taken no steps to register a complaint about the alleged incident with the chairman of the Elections Commission.

In reply to an allegation by the PPP that "hundreds of voters had been excluded" from the electoral lists at Lusignan and Annandale on the East Coast of Demerara,

and that these voters were claimed to be supporters of the PPP, the Prime Minister observed that all of the Parties had ample opportunity (the period had been extended) to examine the voters' lists and to register claims and objections, and that it was hardly credible for the PPP to make such a claim on election day.

In response to further questioning, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to holding a free and fair election. He firmly denied opposition allegations of multiple voting by PNC supporters and reminded reporters that in 1961 Dr. Cheddi Jagan was proved by the courts to be the architect of that practice in Guyana.

Janet Jagan Allegation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 85 p 1.

[Text] It has been brought to the attention of the Chief-of-Staff that Mrs. Janet Jagan of the People's Progressive Party yesterday issued a statement to the media alleging that Army units had "seized" or "hijacked" ballot boxes on the West Bank of the Demerara River, a release from the Defense Secretariat said last night.

"The Chief-of-Staff wishes to deny this allegation, categorically. The military has not taken possession of or handled any ballot boxes on the West Bank of Demerara, as alleged, or in any other part of the country," the statement continued.

"The Chief-of-Staff deplores this continued vilification of the security forces by the People's Progressive Party."

Interview With Hoyte

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Jan 86 pp 8-9

[Text]

The Editor of *Caribbean Contact* was in Georgetown, Guyana, to report on the general elections which were held on December 9, 1985.

He was the only visiting journalist to whom **Hugh Desmond Hoyte**, President of Guyana, granted a personal interview. The interview took place at the presidential residence at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th.

An edited text of that interview follows.

C.C.: I would like an elucidation of a number of aspects of Guyana's political culture about which I am not entirely clear. Of

course you recognise that there has been considerable comment and controversy over the elections. You have declared categorically that they have been free, fair and above board. The opposition parties have claimed that they have been rigged. Now I suspect that in any political embroglio one gets that sort of reaction, but there are a number of aspects about which I am not quite clear. First, why did such a long period of time elapse before the elections results were declared. I ask this in the context that I was in Nicaragua last year, a country about the same size as Guyana, same problems and they had all the elections results in by twelve o'clock the same night.

H.: I don't know specifically about the Nicaraguan problems but every country has its own peculiar problems and we have always had a long period of time between the time of voting and the time of the final declaration of the count. One of the reasons is that there are parts of this country, the hinterland, where people have to walk for three days to get to polling stations, they have got to travel miles up river, sometimes by paddle boats. There are some parts of this country that are reached only by aircraft, and so if I were to take up Region 8 which is in the northern part of the Rupununi, in the

mountain area, you will find that first of all, the polling or presiding officers and other officials get to these remote areas by trail, and getting there involves aircraft, foot, horse, and mule. So really it is the question of the difficulty of the terrain and under our laws the returning officer cannot start counting until all boxes have come. So when all the boxes have come in they are all opened in the presence of the agents of the various parties and the counting starts. So if there are twenty polling stations and nineteen of those boxes come in the returning officer has to wait on the twentieth box and that takes time.

C.C: My second point of interest is about the total results, the uniformity of the results in which one has seen an almost massive landslide for the representative of a one-party system than of a pluralist culture to which I am accustomed. As I was talking to a Guyanese, he remarked that these results appear to be statistically absurd. How can one, in terms of a pluralist system, justify this massive result in your favour?

H.: (Pause) There is a myth that the PPP had the majority of the popular votes of this country. ~~They never had. In 1967...~~ at the height of their power, and that was shortly after the PPP split into the Burnhamite faction and Jaganite faction, the PPP had 47% of the votes. They never touched that again. In 1961 by the time the Burnhamite faction had changed its name to PNC, organised itself, the PPP got 42 percent of the votes and the PNC got 41%. The PPP got 21 seats and the PNC got none. And it was that absurdity from our point of view which led us to advocate . . . proportional representation which we felt is a fairer system having regard to the popular vote. In 1964 the PPP got 45%, the PNC coalition got 53% so even in the old days when we had first-past-the-post elections we had a plurality of the popular votes. Now, to get more directly to your question. **The PPP has never institutionalised itself.** In the old days Jagan's name was something to conjure with. Come the elections you only had to shout "Cheddi Jagan" and there was an automatic electorate which would vote for the

candidate. You call "PPP" and the same thing would happen. But the mistake I would say — and I'm speaking objectively as a political animal — that Jagan made was not to have institutionalised his party. So much so that when we called elections this time he had no party structure in many areas where he had not been for many years. Take Region 10 which is the bauxite region where we have the bulk of our industrial workers. That is one region where the PPP could not put up a regional base, they could not contest a regional election, and in fact Jagan held just one meeting in the whole of the elections in the bauxite belt. So that here was a region with 30 000 votes which was completely abandoned. He had no presence there, never had a presence there since 1964 and that illustrates what I'm talking about — lack of institutionalisation. Now you find the same phenomenon throughout but it was easy for him to maintain some presence on the coast, but in Region 7, again no contest, Region 8 no contest, Region 9 no contest and those are difficult areas so that unless you are

organised and you have the capability to get into those regions you are out of the game as far as those regions are concerned.

I held meetings in important populated areas and the PPP had not been there at all. So if they don't get votes there, there is no difficulty in understanding that. And there are some areas which have traditionally been PNC, like the same mining areas, and the PPP has not made an effort to establish a presence. That is the first point. I'm saying that the party is not institutionalised in the parts of this country where they've never had a presence for decades, so come elections they can't find the people to give them the logistic and other support, much less to vote.

Secondly, Jagan has been out of office for two decades and during that period a whole generation of Guyanese has grown up who do not know Jagan. They met Burnham in office. I have a young ADC, 24 years old, and he told me in May this year when he accompanied me to the investiture ceremony that it was the first time in his life that he had heard the British National Anthem and that shook me because I realised that there was a whole generation of Guyanese that had known only Burnham in office. **Politics is a pragmatic game and if you're out of office for 21 years there is no way you can compete with political patronage;** there is no way you can draw a large number of people, people who have a more pragmatic frame of mind. Thirdly, over the period and in a way that is related to the second point, the sharp edge of racial consciousness has been dulled considerably. I can demonstrate this to you in many ways. So that during these elections I have said on several occasions from my platform during the campaign, that racial politics are dead in this country. So the thing that Jagan relied on instinctively, that you have a whole set of Indian voters who would vote for him automatically, is no longer true. Let me illustrate this to you. All

the Muslim groups, associations, organisations in this country have spoken publicly against statements made by Prime Minister (Eugenia) Charles. We also have photographs of the Islamic Guild International, Missionaries' Guild International, The League of Moslems, the Islamic Centre and the Anjuman giving me their support. Now that last one must have hurt Jagan, because traditionally Jagan controlled the Anjuman, and the Anjuman supported Jagan. On this occasion they came out publicly and supported me. Similarly, the Hindu organisations, the major Hindu organisations, the Pandits' Council, the Hindu Maha Sabha. Now it is the first time. I'm not saying we never had Indian support; very often that support was diffident or people wouldn't be forthright, they might tell you quickly that they would vote for you. On this occasion all throughout this country, people came out publicly, people would come to me to pledge their support and all these things indicate the issue, the absence of racial feeling. And that heartened me considerably because over the years we have fought to bring about that kind of position in Guyana.

Similarly with the business groups, the people who until recently would not have identified with the PNC. Certain business men who felt that our policies were inimical to their interest had different political attitudes. But they've come out and I hoped for popular support. But I myself was astonished by the extent of that support and the way it cut across all interests, economic strata, things like that. Therefore the kind of support for the PNC is explainable in those terms. It is also explainable in terms of our programme. We campaigned on a programme of peace, co-operation and development. This is how I see it, so perhaps you can bear in mind that although I believe it is objective it could be a subjective interpretation of what the other people are saying.

They had two objections. One was a criticism of the PNC and its leaders, and the other thing was a criticism of past elections. But I don't think that a single opposition party could show you one statement, one radio programme, one meeting where it put forward a positive, constructive programme which would tell the people what was their alternative to the PNC, and I think that negativism cost them votes. In the last days Cheddi started to talk about violence — he'd bring down the government with massive strikes, massive demonstrations and telling the people to besiege the polling stations and don't allow the ballot boxes to be moved. It was uncannily similar to what we saw in 1973. Subsequently he denied it because I said that I wasn't going to have any violence in the country because my interpretation of the mood of the people was that the people wanted peace. Now I think people got a little worried over that. For example, the same

Moslem organisation, the Anjuman, which is the largest Moslem organisation in the country. On October 23 Jagan went to the executive of the Anjuman and asked for their support. He said to them two main points. One was that he would bring down the government with strikes and demonstrations and that he had on his side a number of unions, CCW, the University Staff Union, and that he would run this country like the Cubans ran theirs. When he was finished, some of those Moslems told him point blank that they were not going to support him. **Hassan Ali**, for example, he not only told Dr. Jagan that he would not support him but he came right across and sought me out and pledged his support to our party and this was totally unsolicited and then the President of the Anjuman came subsequently to me and pledged his support and said, "look, I'm going to organise a meeting of the Anjuman and you come and address it". I said

"Fine". He said I could ask for their support. I said I wouldn't do that, I wouldn't ask for any support, it would be a matter for them. I'm too good a political animal to risk rebuff because they have never supported the PNC in the past. I went and I spoke to them, I carried a message of peace, co-operation and development. When I was finished they got up and asked me questions and said "We will support the President, we will support the PNC," and so they came out publicly and pledged their support.

And so I think that if you ask around, I think the average citizen will tell you about the enormous support which we receive from people. Some say it is goodwill for me because I am new; some people say sympathy because the past President was dead. I am not going to get into the reasons for it but I tell you the fact there was this massive support. People who work with Jagan, a strongman on the Corentyne coast, a man named **Jim Narine Sawh**, came to me here. I do not know the man. He came, asked whether I would see him and his wife. He wanted to pledge support, and I told him "yes" and he sat down there, having pledged his support, and wrote a cheque for \$20 000. That was the

magnitude. People would come in not only with oral pledges, but with money, some of it donations, wholly unsolicited and you know that shocked me. But there it was, but when I went to the Corentyne about a week after to hold a meeting people said to me, "But what magic you work? But how you could do Jagan so? In all the years Jagan's strongman here grew rice, father and son." There are many examples like that, a whole list of people who were strong in the opposition.

Clearly the two main parties were the PNC and the PPP. The National Democratic Front a bit of a joke, a man named Bacchus, the PLM and the DLM. Of those the PLM was the one which, now starting, was making an effort to

do something, in terms of organising a party. The WPA in terms of organisation hasn't got the support. What is has got is an extremely good overseas propaganda machine; they have a lot of contacts, contacts in universities, contacts with media people and they put out, they beat us at this. I freely admit that, in terms of putting out propaganda they beat us hands-down. And so people abroad have an exaggerated idea as to what their strength is [words indistinct] able to contest all the regions . . .

C.C.: How do you account for the United Force's seeming strength?

H.: That again reflects the complexities and subtleties of this society. There are some people who would never vote for the PNC, would never vote for the PPP and they had a model in a man named Peter D'Agular. I am going to put it to you and say they voted for the memory of Peter who represented something to them. He represented a certain social order and he represented a certain economic strata. Those people would not vote if the United Force fell out of the race; those people would not vote because none of the parties would be acceptable to them. So you have a hard core of the old guard.

C.C.: What struck me is that the Nicaraguans in the face of international criticism made sure that they had observers there, local and international from all parts of the world. Now I wonder if you have not been your own worst enemy by rejecting observers, both local — for example the Law Association — and from the international community.

H.: Oh what presumption! I think the Law Association is rather presumptuous. Why not the Association of Farmers? What gives the legal organisation the right to observe elections? The fact of the matter is that the law itself makes provision for observers, and other persons who are the representatives of all the political parties. All the political parties have the constitutional right to have their people there at the place of count. So no need for

observers on top of observers. Bear in mind that the Bar Association is controlled by people who are anti the PNC government. The Bar Association has the President, Ashton Chase, who has been a member of the PPP. I think he has now removed himself from a political party to give himself flexibility but there is no doubt that he has never had anything good to say about this government or this party and has used the Bar Association as an instrument for attacking the situa-

Now let us deal with the overseas. We are particularly sensitive on this. There are so many people who believe that former colonies are still in a state of tutelage, that we are still colonies and people from the so-called Mother Country can still come and dictate to us about particular privileges in the society, and tell you what to do and if you don't follow precisely their ideas about how you should structure society, your institutions and so on — well then you are aberrant and therefore you have to be hammered, criticised and all that sort of thing. So we have always taken the view that we Guyanese must settle our own affairs; we must be able if we really are independent to resolve our own problems, no matter how long they take. Now the Nicaraguans invited us to send somebody, to be one of the countries participating as observers, but we declined. Because we said, "We don't think it is right." I don't think the Nicaraguans have benefitted.

C.C.: With elections past would you care to comment on how you expect to develop a dialogue between yourself and your party, your government, the opposition parties and the people of Guyana. How do you propose to turn this massive majority which you have to motivate the people of Guyana to produce?

H.: Well, let us say this. I have no particular interest in massive majorities. I don't feel that it is necessarily a good thing because if you don't have an organised group of people who will tell you something different to what you say, or who will offer

criticism no matter how severe, no matter how misconceived, there is always the likelihood of your becoming complacent and believing that all is well. So the fact that we have got a massive majority is no subject for congratulations. But I can't organise the opposition, they would have to do that. I really hope they will spend their time now organising the parties, which is something that they haven't done; that is my criticism of them. Now we have always, in our party, kept close to the people, and this is a point I

made at all my meetings, and this is what I mean when I say that our party will be the only institutionalised political force in this country. Now in 1974 at the special Congress that we had, our late party leader, Comrade Burnham, made a very important speech in terms of our party's history in which he said that the time would come when our party should cease to be a mere election machine and become organised on a permanent basis as an agency for development. Organised in the way that it interfaces day in and day out with all the com-

munities in this country. And he worked very hard towards organising such a party, a party that would have a life and a momentum of its own regardless of personalities, a party that could function on its own. I think paradoxically enough the success of his [words indistinct] by

his death. Because when he died the party not only demonstrated continuity. Not only did succession to party leadership go off very smoothly — within two hours of his death — I was elected unanimously by the Central Executive Committee as the new party leader and within a week or so of that, that election was ratified unanimously by our annual Congress. I think that says something for an organised, disciplined, united party. Now secondly, within a matter of days of his death we were able to go and organise the Congress which was the best and most organised

Congress we have ever had in the history of our party.

The former Prime Minister, Dr. Reid, who is still the Deputy Leader of the party, had a favourite saying, "We are with you in season and out of season". So I said to my constituents, "We are with you in season and out of season. In the good times, we laugh and rejoice together, and in the bad times you cuss us. That is what we are there for. We are there to take the criticism and the blame when things go wrong but not to run away, to stay with you to encourage you; to give guidance and leadership."

CC.: Could you elaborate on some of the developmental plans that you hope to implement?

H.: Let me say first of all I am a firm believer in systems and institutions and I believe we have to operate within a framework of dual modality where we have strong systems and proper lines of authority and proper arrangements for accountability. So that before we start implementing projects and so on, I want to focus upon putting those systems in places where they don't exist, strengthening systems where they do exist, and making sure that the ground rules are right and that everybody understands them and everybody understands what he has to do and what his responsibilities are so that he can have due rewards and punishment,

sanctions, as he deserves it. I place great emphasis on that.

But we still believe agriculture to be the base for our development and what we have done with agriculture is extremely important to our survival because when people say we could go on and go on, I think the great advantage that we have is that people grow so much of their own food. Now in agriculture we hope to diversify into new crops, soya, oil palm — we've got oil palm cultivation — we will expand corn; we have got corn cultivation. But we need to expand and improve techniques and so on, to rehabilitate our coconut industry. Our coconut industry

has had some rough times and many people abandoned coconut estates or didn't pay too much attention to them with the problems with various kinds of diseases, but we think we are getting to top of that now. So then there is a project to develop our dairy industry: we [word indistinct] 1988

and we hope to become self-sufficient by then. We used to be self-sufficient in this, but then we became sophisticated and imported from abroad at prices which were cheaper than the price at which our farmers could produce and there was a decline and we had to deliberately reverse that policy in order to stimulate local production and the results were very encouraging. We still have 1988 as the year when we become self-sufficient in milk. So the dairy industry is an important sector on which we are putting an accent and doing a lot of work. Now we also have to redevelop crops such as cocoa, coffee, to name two that come to mind immediately. Years ago we used to be good producers, we used to export coffee to Caribbean countries but again the problems of the Third World countries; Nescafe came in and people were "sophisticated", preferred Nescafe, it was cheaper, more convenient and so on. But I think that by now people understand that you can't develop a country if you neglect your own production and import things from outside. So we are at present pursuing this policy of rehabilitating these coffee growers, these cocoa

growers and I myself have gone around and seen people doing wonderful work participating with the government officers in this. Then, in traditional crops, we are hoping to improve efficiency and last year we established a National Agricultural Research Institute which is doing good work to impart to farmers new techniques, husbandry and so on and look at the questions of pests losses to see how we can help them. In this connection we have established the Institute of Applied Science and Technology which began introducing simple low-priced dryers, solar dryers, dryers using charcoal to help the farmers reduce losses.

In major industries like sugar we know that the long-term prospects for sugar are bleak. We don't think that the Europeans will stop subsidising their beet farmers, that they will stop over-producing and dumping their sugar on the world market and therefore sugar prices are going to remain quite low. Therefore what we are doing to the industry is changing our concept of it so that we now look upon the sugar industry as an industry which produces sugar cane, sugar cane being the raw material for making a number of things. So the sugar industry is working on that model. In addition sugar is diversifying into rice on some of the extensive lands that it has. This year we planted 2 000 acres of rice. The sugar estates got fish ponds, where they are growing carp and bass and principally they are experimenting with other things. They are the

frontrunners of agriculture. So we're doing that kind of diversification, aimed at ensuring that our large sugar plantations are not dependent upon this single crop and that they will have the better opportunity to become viable and

move back into profitability. One of the aims is to ensure that we are self-sufficient as possible in food, hence the emphasis upon oil palms because that is one area in which we are not yet self-sufficient.

C.C.: Do you envisage any constitutional changes in the next five years?

H.: Not really. I mean, if the matter surfaces in any way that it becomes a matter of public debate and I perceive that there is a national consensus, that the Constitution needs changing in any way, well sure I would want to give effect to what I perceive as the national will.

C.C. How do you expect your relations with your CARICOM partners to go, particularly in view of Ms. Charles' quite clearly hostile attitude to your government and Mr. Mitchell's recent comment?

H.: Yes, I have seen that and I hope you have all seen the reaction of some of our people. There has been widespread anger, at least in Guyana, and many major organisations, religious organisations, business organisations and so on, have come out in anger, saying to Ms. Charles two things: (1) We don't know what you are talking about, how can you be making these categorical statements? You are over there and you don't know what is happening in this country, and (2) In any case, we don't accept anyone interfering in our domestic

political affairs — and that is my position. I would not interfere in Ms. Charles' political affairs and indeed like everything else there are allegations made against her by her opposition.

C.C.: What about the integration movement as such? What is Guyana's role in this?

H.: We are committed integrationists and have always been and we remain. I myself am a committed integrationist. So I hope that we will stick to the things that CARICOM is all about at this time. It is not at all political, a political unit. We haven't reached that stage; it is about economic integration, economic co-operation and, sure, we would like to play our part fully in advancing the process of economic co-operation, trying to help CARICOM to get over what is admittedly a very difficult period and move on to a great deal of prosperity.

C.C.: What about your relations with Cuba?

H.: Relations with Cuba remain cordial. We have had a good economic programme with Cuba and we hope that that programme will continue.

C.C.: And finally, Sir, if Caribbean Contact were able to acquire the means to be able to try to conduct a poll in Guyana, how would you and your government react to that?

H.: Well, all I would say to you is that you can conduct a poll but I mean, we wouldn't give you any official status. I would have no problem with your poll.

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GUYANA

PPP ORGAN REPORTS ON PARTY'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN SPEECHES

Rohee Speech

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 4

[The Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE carried extensive report, with quotations, on each of the following speeches by PPP candidates.]

[Text] People's Progressive Party executive committee member, Clement Rohee, has cautioned the Guyanese voters against returning the PNC to office, because of the poor record of that party which has been running the country for 21 years. In a recent radio broadcast, Mr. Rohee who is also an Elections Commissioner noted

'The past 21 years have been an indictment on the PNC. And the rhetoric and showy propaganda notwithstanding, experience and life have both demonstrated that the ruling elite has long adopted a most insensitive attitude towards our working men and women. This attitude is reflected in the fact that wages and salaries have not kept pace with the ever increasing cost-of-living.

In March 1981, after the non-payment by government of the \$14 daily minimum wage for public sector workers, the TUC pointed out that the monthly take-home pay after taxes was \$250 in 1980, but expenses for a family of six were estimated at \$654.23. Since 1982, the real wage of the urban worker has declined by more than 43 per cent and for the rural worker by over 23 per cent.

The Guyanese worker is placed in a situation in which he is forced to either beg, borrow or steal for the sake of survival. And this is something which no serious political party should be happy about.

In 1984, the government decreed a minimum wage increase to only \$15.10 per day. This, contrasted with the present cost of living is but a mere pittance. For 1985-1986, the government is paying only 5 per cent increase to sugar and bauxite workers and 4 percent to other workers. This is most outrageous especially since the ruling party claims to be 'preoccupied with improving the lot of the Guyanese masses'.

Where is the basis for justifying such miserly increases to our working people when the Saltaire and tie-dye shirt-jac elite continues to live in high style, draw fat salaries and handsome allowances every year? Whereas in 1985, workers in the sugar and bauxite industries received an increase of only 10 per cent, retroactive from January, 1984, the ruling elite gave themselves hefty increases in salaries from 100 to 150 per cent, not to mention the huge increases in allowances. And yet, those who walk the corridors of power have the timidity to try to convince us about socialist construction taking place in Guyana.

Our party takes this opportunity to inform the electorate of this country, that real socialism has nothing in common with human suffering, rigged elections or deprivation of the basic foods which are necessary for a strong, healthy and intelligent nation. Under real socialism everything produced is for the well-being of the people. What we have in Guyana therefore is a far cry from what socialism is all about.

Listing some of the adverse factors affecting the working people, he mentioned inadequate and costly transportation, exorbitant cost of electricity, disgusting blackouts, acute housing shortage, exorbitant rents, perennial unemployment, and increasing child labour.

He further noted that rapidly deteriorating living standards and conditions of high unemployment and under-employment are leading to many anti-social activities. He stressed that 'we have not heard as yet, what concrete solutions the PNC has to solve these problems.'

He criticized the inadequate old age pensions of \$55 per month and described the means test as 'unrealistically low at \$50 per month' which prevents many deserving persons from obtaining pensions, while at the same time killing initiatives to supplement impossibly low incomes of old people.

Pointing out that the PPP is committed to a government which will serve the interests of all ethnic groups, and in which the workers and farmers will play the leading role, he said that among other measures, such a PPP government will:

--Guarantee workers and employees the right to meaningful participation in the decision-making and management at all state corporations and enterprises.

--Establish workers' and/or farmers' Committees at each state corporation and enterprise for the purpose of control, supervision and accounting.

--Recognise trade unions of the workers' choice.

--Pay the workers a living wage; restore subsidies for essential commodities, ensure adequate and reliable social services, especially water, transport, health, education and electricity.

To our working men and women; to our young workers; whether you toil in the factory or the workshop; in the canefields or mines; in the quarries or

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lumberyards; at the waterfront or at the desk; to the men and women in uniform as well, on December 9 let your conscience be your guide;

Vote PPP!

Vote for the CUP!

Persaud Speech

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 5

[Text] The assertion by the PNC that it has brought 'peace' to Guyana was shattered by PPP executive committee member Reepu Daman Persaud in a recent radio broadcast. Mr. Persaud pointed out that the 'peace' issue is the sole plank on which the PNC campaign is based.

'One would have expected the PNC to point to the economic and social achievements, and to what progress has been made in the development of the country' he said. 'This it cannot do because there has been no such development.'

He stressed that the PNC was directly involved in the political unrest in the country in the years 1962, 1963 and 1964 'fomented by foreign agencies in conspiracy with the then opposition parties, the sole purpose being to overthrow a constitutionally and democratically elected government'.

Noting the absurd nature of this PNC propaganda blurb, he declared: 'It is an insult to the intelligence of anyone to suggest that a government in office will unleash violence against itself.' The bald facts are that after the PNC and the UF were installed in office by Anglo-American imperialism, the violence stopped abruptly--for 21 years now.

Mr. Persaud went on to tear the PNC's propaganda into shreds by remarking:

'To suggest that Guyanese are at peace is to deliberately ignore reality. How can anyone be at peace when his pay packet cannot purchase sufficient food to satisfy the needs of his family?

Can you be at peace when you go to bed at night locked-up in your grilled-up prison fearing that your door will be kicked open and your family slaughtered while in bed?

Are you at peace when you consider the dark future of your children and our country?

Can peace be achieved amidst grave shortages of essential food items, spiralling prices and collapse of essential social services?

Guyana is rich in potential and stands singular in the Caribbean as a country with unparalleled resources. We have sugar, rice, bauxite, gold, timber and other resources and the possibility of mineral oil. What must be asked is why

a country so endowed is in such a terrible economic plight. The reason is that the PNC has mismanaged the economy, shattered the people's aspirations by its misdeeds and brought untold suffering and hardships on a people known for their patience and hard work.

In addition, the PNC imposed on us a multitude of restrictions, withholding from us basic and staple items including flour and peas and prescribing what we must eat.'

Observing that the country's backbone is agriculture, he explained that the PPP government placed high priority on this sector, as a result of which there was food aplenty at cheap prices. The rice industry for instance was put in the hands of the rice producers themselves with the Rice Producers' Association having a majority on the Rice Marketing Board. The rice industry therefore prospered. Today, it is in a mess. There is even a shortage of rice on the local market. A PPP government will return the industry to the farmers.

Mr. Persaud also referred to the tremendous strides made in the dairy farming; and to milk surpluses, plans for a condensery, plans for a fruit and juice cannery from the GDR, (vetoed by Britain) crop bonuses, duty free concessions, fixed prices, guaranteed markets, land settlements schemes, (including Tapakuma and the MMA). There was progress also in the coconut industry, as a result of good prices for copra. Today, there is a cooking oil shortage.

Mr. Persaud said that a PPP government will end the neglect to which infrastructure for farmers has been subjected, and will restore all forms of subsidies and incentives. Appealing to the good sense of the Guyanese people, the PPP's chief spokesman on agriculture remarked:

'Fellow Guyanese, Guyana is at the crossroads. We can move either backward or forward. We have had PNC rule for 21 years. We have seen what it means. The effects and consequences are all around us. They have offered no solutions to our problems and no directions for our country. It is time for the electorate's will to prevail in free and democratic elections.

The PPP has stood by you for 35 years. We have consistently defended your rights and fought your battles. Our confidence in you has never wavered. That confidence is being returned in full measure by your overwhelming presence at all our public meetings during this campaign.

We are encouraged by your support which must now be translated by your vote on election day for the only Party and the only Leader, Cheddi Jagan, whose unparalleled integrity, honesty and dedication to our country and its people are still to be surpassed in Guyana's history.

Vote for the CUP. Vote PPP!

Dr Luncheon's Address

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 6

[Text] The People's Progressive Party has indicated to the electorate of Guyana a wide range of measures it will embark upon if elected with a majority in Parliament. These commitments were disclosed by Dr. Roger Luncheon, a PPP candidate, in a recent radio broadcast which dealt with the massive deterioration in living standards in the country.

Dr. Luncheon pointed out that the PNC inherited from the PPP government a strong economic structure and policies which stressed social justice. This included a progressive wages policy, subsidies in basic consumer goods easy availability of food items, a comprehensive and adequately financed health care system and a sound educational system. "In fact," he remarked, "social services under the PPP government in 1964 were 45 % of the current budget. by 1984 this had dropped to 22%".

The popular medical specialist referred to other areas of PPP government policy, including low-cost housing and a fair system of taxation.

He then referred to the "track record" of the PNC government in its onslaught on the working class, complete with dismissals and chronic unemployment. Recalled was the government's failure to pay \$15 per day in 1979 as agreed on, its over-ruling of the High Court through the Labour Amendment Act 1986, thereby cheating workers of arrears wages and unpopular import restrictions on basic consumer goods.

"Malnutrition" Dr. Luncheon said, "is rearing its ugly head higher in our society. Beri-Beri has assumed epidemic proportions among prisoners, pork-knockers, and inhabitants of the interior locations. It is taking its toll on the most vulnerable sections of our population--children, pregnant mothers and the elderly.

Health Care a Right

"Health care is a right according to the Constitution. But what is the reality? The actual providers of health care face the frustrating task of making do with nothing--improvising, begging, borrowing and patching things up. Understaffing has reached grim proportions in public hospitals. The lack of drugs and supplies has also made health care doubly difficult.

Our public hospitals have become places where hope is lost and where people needlessly die. In our various communities, Typhoid, Malaria and Tuberculosis are now rampant. Despite this the budgetary allocations for health remains basically inadequate....

"The transportation system is in grave crisis. The amount of man-hours lost by workers standing at roadsides waiting for buses must have an adverse impact on the economy. School children leave home in the dark in the early mornings and return home in the dark at nights. One does not have to be a genius to

spot the link between the spiralling level of road accidents, and the rapid deterioration in transportation services. The lack of spare parts is a contributory factor to road accidents."

"The supply of electricity" Dr. Luncheon noted "is unpredictable despite the load-shedding guide". The cost goes up, the service deteriorates and measures to collect arrears intensify. Prompt payment is demanded for poor service is profoundly illogical.

"A PPP government will end blackouts, restore some sanity in the power grid and eventually reduce the costs of generating electricity. This of course is to your benefit, for it will mean lower light bills."

Rise of Violent Crime

"There has been a deterioration in the crime situation, with it violent robberies with or without to murders taking place. An obvious increase in corrupt practices has been noted. Enbezzlement of state funds is on the rise, so is smuggling and blackmarketing. A PPP government will crack down on all types of crime, and will arm the vigilante groups.

"Our youths see no future ahead of them, which is why they opt overwhelmingly for emigration.

"A PPP government will have dynamic youth policy designed to instill honesty, decorum and courtesy within our young people. They will also be taught to be industrious, and patriotic--to produce to the optimum and to love Guyana more than any other country. Youths will no longer vote with their feet.

"Workers' demands in the field of legislation have been contemptuously ignored. There is need for direct access by the trade union movement to Parliament or to a Standing Committee vested with authority in the field of labour legislation. The records testify to the paucity of labour legislation over the last 20 years when compared to the previous 20-year-period 1942-1962."

"There are many areas which cry out for legislation...severance pay, redundancy pay, damages for wrongful dismissal, reinstatement orders, polling for union recognition, updating company and factory laws, pensions for government employees other than teachers, effective and expeditious arbitration, enhanced benefits and reforms in the NIS, etc.

Fellow Guyanese

"If the PPP wins the election, it will take steps immediately implement measures in the interest of the working people." [as published

Teixeira Speech

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Dec 85 p 6

[Text] The following is an abridged text of the Radio Broadcast by PPP Executive Member, Gail Teixeira:

The PNC has intensified its attacks of lies and distortions against the PPP in order to confuse you, the voters. The PNC is well aware of the mammoth meetings the PPP has had and the genuine outpouring of goodwill, confidence and support which is there for all to see. It is for this reason that it has resorted to the most insidious accusations in a desperate attempt to counter this upsurge of the people for a change. Clearly and unmistakably the PPP has received overwhelming approval and support from the people of Guyana.

The accusation by the PNC that the PPP is calling for violence on election day is dangerous and underhand. Firstly, no leader of the PPP has called on PPP supporters to prevent the Election Officers from removing the ballot boxes unless there is a preliminary count at the polling place. It is a gross lie to claim that Dr. Jagan, Clement Rohee or Harry Persaud Nokta, advised violence, and urged that women take their children and babies to block the movement of the ballot boxes or that the men block the road with tree trunks and old vehicles.

X-13 Plan

Rather, it is the PNC in collusion with the UF, British and American intelligence which introduced violence in Guyana in the 1960s. It is the PNC which was the perpetrator of the X-13 plan whose objective was to create racial strife and disrupt the economy.

An example of the PNC's anti-national campaign of systematic violence was the 1963 30-day strike which was orchestrated and financed by the CIA and implemented by the PNC in collaboration with the UF. The National Labour Relations Bill was used as a pretext for violence and racial conflict. Yet the same Bill was supported by Mr Burnham when he was a Minister in the 1953 PPP government.

When has the PPP orchestrated violence in this country? The PPP and its leaders and presidential candidate Dr. Cheddi Jagan have unapologetically called for political struggle to restore democracy. The issue before the people of Guyana is the right to elect a government of its choice, to have the ballots citizens place in the ballot box counted and not tampered with. But the PNC is deliberately distorting the demands for free and fair elections as calls to violence for the sole purpose of preventing observation of the ballot boxes from the time they are removed from the polling places to the time counting commences. The government is trying to create a false atmosphere of fears of violence so as to have an excuse for the use of the disciplined forces in once more seizing the ballot boxes.

Poor Record

Clearly the track record of the PNC elicits a history of collusion with British and American intelligence to prevent independence under the PPP government, following which they created violence and racial strife, effected rigging of the 1968, 1973 and 1980 elections, the rigging of the 1978 referendum and the last-held municipal elections in 1970, and sold out to the IMF in 1978. The consequent repercussions have been the erosion of democracy, coercion, victimisation, drop in production, heavy taxation, skyrocketing cost of living, and worsening social and economic conditions for the people.

The heavy reliance of the PNC propaganda on the promise of peace is a reflection of their weakness as they are unable to face the electorate with any tangible accomplishments in 21 years or any programme to solve the economic crisis in the future.

Political Solution

If the PNC were a patriotic party it would have agreed to the political solution we had promised since 1977 for a National Patriotic Front government, based on a programme of democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation.

Guyana cannot go forward under the existing leadership. The country is regressing and with the PNC at its helm we would only continue to slide downhill. It is time for a change but not any change--a change for a clean, united, popular government, a National Patriotic Front Government.

On December 9th, let your conscience be your guide; vote PPP! Vote for the CUP!

/9274

CSO: 3298/281

GUYANA

WAGE ISSUE ACCORD REPORTED; CRITICISM CONTINUES

Agreement on Guidelines

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 85 p 1

[Text] The State Planning Commission Secretariat is expected this weekend to begin issuing guidelines for effecting payments to public sector employees in accordance with the new package of wages, salaries and related benefits recently agreed on between Government and the Guyana Trades Union Congress.

This indication was given yesterday after General Secretary of the TUC Joseph Pollydore announced that the TUC had accepted the guidelines submitted Wednesday for its scrutiny.

The TUC has also submitted the names of its nominees to sit on two committees which are to deal with the fixing of travelling and meal allowances.

The committees are being set up in keeping with the agreement announced last week in a joint communique by the Government and the TUC. They are scheduled to have their first meeting next week.

The issuing of the guidelines would pave the way for the payout of the benefits agreed on and outlined in last week's communique providing for across-the-board increases and further increased based on appraisal of workers' performance.

A spokesman for the State Planning Secretariat said the guidelines would be sent to agencies including the Public Service Ministry, Guystac, Guymine, Guy-suco and the Cooperative Finance Administration (COFA).

Pensioners are also to benefit from the new package.

Hoyte on Back-Pay Tax

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by Courtney Gibson]

[Text] All retroactive payments of up to \$700 to public sector employees and public sector pensioners arising from the new wage and salary package

agreement between the Government and the Guyana Trades Union Congress [TUC] will be exempted from taxation, it was announced yesterday.

The decision has been taken by President Desmond Hoyte following written representation made to him on November 26 by General Secretary of the TUC Cde Joseph Pollydore.

Cde Hoyte's decision from which the bulk of the nation's workers will benefit, was conveyed to the TUC on Thursday, November 28.

The tax relief authorised by the President means that many workers will be able to take home the full amount of the retroactive payments accruing to them under the agreement concluded between the Government and the TUC on November 21.

However, in keeping with that agreement which is retroactive to January 1, 1985 and which provides for across-the-board increases of six per cent in 1985 and five per cent in 1986, public sector workers excluding those of Guymine and Guysuco will also receive, on average, four per cent and five per cent in 1985 and 1986 respectively as performance appraisals.

Guymine and Guysuco employees will benefit from a six per cent per annum across-the-board increases for 1985 and 1986. And in their case, performance appraisals would be six and a half per cent in each of the two years 1985 and 1986.

The instituting of a system of performance appraisals is an important aspect of the November 21 agreement. And while all public sector agencies will be expected to put in place effective appraisal systems from 1986, wherever such systems are not now in place in the public sector workers will receive an average four per cent this year.

This means that the average worker will receive a 10 per cent increase on his 1985 salary to date.

And, in keeping with the arrangements for the payout, most workers in the public sector (except those from Guymine and Guysuco) will receive a minimum of 1,10 months (just over one month's) current salary as a retroactive payment. A worker now earning 360 dollars per month will therefore receive 396 dollars (tax-free) backpay for 11 months: a worker earning 790 dollars per month will receive 869 in retroactive payments for 11 months, 700 dollars of which will be tax-free.

In keeping with the November 21 agreement, some workers--those who despite years of experience have been "bunched" with workers with far less years of experience and receive the same salaries as the newcomers will have their salaries further adjusted.

The worker so affected and who has three to six years' experience will receive an additional five per cent on his current salary/wage; those with six to seven years' service will receive an additional six per cent--seven to eight years' service--an additional seven per cent; those with eight years' service and more--an additional eight per cent.

6 February 1986

By virtue of this aspect of the agreement workers who benefit from a five per cent additional increase will receive retroactive payments equivalent to about 1,7 months' salary and those who benefit from an additional eight per cent increase will receive payments totalling slightly over two months of their current salary.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge is currently giving consideration to the rules that should be applied in making adjustments to the salaries of persons such as chief executive officers and executive chairmen whose salaries fall within the top salary ranges.

It is not yet known when the payout to public sector employees and public sector pensioners will be made. However, except for a few matters raised by the TUC for Government's consideration the basic guidelines for effecting the payout have been agreed upon.

Those basic guidelines are to be forwarded to Guystac Group, the Public Service Ministry, Guymine, Guysuco and the Co-operative Financial Administration Group and this should be done early in the new week for prompt action.

Criticism of Pact

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 8 Dec 85 p 2

[Article signed "Trade Unionist": "Present Wage Packet a Shame"]

[Text]

IN THE FACE of insistent demands by the newly elected TUC for, among other things, a minimum wage of \$25 per day, and his government's equal insistence that it could not be afforded, the late President Burnham, in Nov. 1984 intervened under the powers of the Labour Amendment Act No. 9, 1984, and announced an "interim" payment based on a \$15.10 per day minimum wage.

One year later, the new wage packet proposals set a minimum wage of \$16.80 per day as from Jan. 1, 1986.

This new minimum wage falls far short of the TUC demands, and is just one more indication of the serious plight of workers in the country.

The TUC's demands had included among other things:

- 1) Payment of cost-of-living allowances.
- 2) Guarantees to maintain the levels of employment in the Public Sector.
- 3) Adjustment of tax allowances to reflect the rise in the cost-of-living.

4) Payment of allowances (meals, travel, subsistence etc) based on a formula linked to price movements.

These demands were designed to protect present wage increases against future price increases.

The failure to achieve any of these in the present wage packet puts at grave risks the meagre 10-12% increases of the present wage package.

After all, the cost-of-living in Guyana has trebled between 1977 and 1984.

Reliable estimates also indicate that the real wage in 1984 was only 40% of the wage earned in 1979!

And, if experience is anything to go by, the usual round of price and tax increases associated with the budget, as well as further devaluation of the currency could mean the loss of these increases in a matter of weeks.

The low-keyed approach of the government's propaganda machinery on the wage packet is perhaps one measure of how embarrassingly meagre it is.

One can only hope the workers, trade unions, and their leadership put more heart into their struggles for improved pay and conditions of work.

The level of award in the present wage packet should be a shame to all those associated with it.

/9274

CSO: 3298/281

GUYANA

MINISTER CALLS FOR IMPROVED CO-OP UNION PERFORMANCE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 85 p 8

[Article by James Henry]

[Text]

MINISTER of Manpower and Co-operatives, Cde. Kenneth Denny has said that a revolution must take place next year to improve the performance of Co-operative unions in Guyana. "We must make a great effort together", Cde. Denny urged, at a meeting with representatives of co-operatives yesterday at the St. Mary's School on Brickdam.

The Minister pointed out that because of financial constraints, rural thrift and credit societies have not been able to function properly, and this has affected the work of the National Co-operative Union. He however, disclosed that priority will be given to rural societies in the allocation of tractors expected in the country next year from the German Democratic Republic.

Cde. Denny announced that a State Paper containing proposals for the future of co-operatives is now being prepared and is to be submitted to Cabinet next year.

Stressing that education and training are vital, the Minister said that come next year, co-operatives need to place much emphasis in this

area, especially in management and accounts. The lack of training in these areas has lead to the downfall of many unions. He pointed out that the Kuru-Kuru Co-operative College needs to step up its training programme and collaborate more with the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives and the National Co-operative Union, so that training programmes would be more relevant to the needs of societies country-wide.

The Minister called upon young people to be more involved in co-operative unions and said that every school in the country should have a School Co-operative Thrift Society, which could psychologically prepare youths to save.

He also stressed that in 1986 improvement must come to the unions. With new plans for progress the co-operatives should be more successful.

Representatives of co-operatives present took the opportunity to pledge their support to the People's National Congress in the forthcoming general and regional elections.

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CSO: 3298/281

GUYANA

BRIEFS

WRIT AGAINST PAPER--The Guyana Rice Milling and Marketing Authority (GBMMA) has filed a Writ for libel against the Catholic Standard, its editor Fr. Andrew Morrison and the printer--Angal Printing Establishment claiming damages in excess of \$1,500. The libel, according to the writ is contained in the November 17 issue of the Catholic Standard under the caption "Candidate dismissed." In the writ, the GRMMA is also claiming an injunction restraining the defendants from further writing, printing, circulating or distributing any similar libel of and concerning the plaintiff. The article alleges that Vibart Bobb the WPA candidate for Region 5 was dismissed from his job at the State-owned rice mill because of his candidature of the WPA and that such dismissal was a violation of Bobb's right to freedom of association. The defendants have 10 days within which to reply. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 85 p 20] /9274

BOGUS BILLS PRESS--The Police have seized a press which they believe was used in the making of a large quantity of bogus \$20 Guyana currency notes. Recently the Police had warned that forged currency notes were being circulated in many parts of the country. Two men are assisting the Police in their investigations since the seizure of the press and a quantity of forged notes that were found in their possession. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 85 p 3] /9274

CSO: 3298/281

JAMAICA

MANLEY: SEAGA PLAYING 'DANGEROUS GAMES' WITH NATION

Remarks to People's Forum

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Dec 85 p 3

[Text] Mr. Michael Manley, President of the People's National Party, has accused Prime Minister Edward Seaga of "playing dangerous games" with Jamaica.

He made this charge at the PNP's People's Forum at the National Arena on Wednesday, as he declared that despite "the most stupid and infantile" provocation, his Party would not be provoked into violence.

"We recently saw an extraordinary thing. I believe that the Government is playing dangerous games with Jamaica. I believe that the stubborn, arrogant, indifference to the democratic process is playing games with Jamaica's future," Mr. Manley said.

He expressed fears that a boy who became 18 years old in 1980 would never be able to express his opinion on the Government until he was aged 26, eight years over the age contemplated in the Constitution. This was a matter of playing dangerous games with Jamaica.

"I believe that the manipulation of the Local Government arrangements, the cheap games to put it off and put it off and put off, is playing games with the future of Jamaica.

"I believe that to say that if him get vex him will give us the government, is playing games with the democracy of Jamaica.

"I believe when him say him will take to the streets, mash up the country and put us back where we are is a confession ... I say that to threaten the country is worse than playing games. It reveals the mentality of a fascist....

"I say to him, we will not be provoked," Mr. Manley said, and this was in spite of the most stupid and infantile provocation. "No, we will not be into guns. No we will not be into violence. No, we will not be into subversion. No, we will not accept this illegitimate joke of a government. The dawn has come."

6 February 1986

Mr. Manley gave an overview of the performance of the economy which he said had been burdened with a \$3.4 billion debt and a trade deficit this year of US\$500 million under outdated economic policies.

And giving the electoral up-date, General Secretary, Dr. Paul Robertson, charged that the traditional sleight of hand as well as "clever and corrupt" politics was being used in regard to preparations for Local Government Elections.

He said that the Government (on the Electoral Advisory Committee) for its own reasons was using every mechanism to delay the holding of Local Government Elections.

Chairman, Mr. Carl Rattray in his opening remarks questioned the probity of the Government in light of the one-party Parliament. He also asked several questions about the Spring Plain Agro 21 project as he said that until the answers were forthcoming it was irrational to endorse the project as successful.

Comment on Election Issue

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 85 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga has shown his "contempt for the democratic process" by putting off Local Government elections again, the President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, declared Tuesday night.

Mr. Manley said also that the elections were postponed because the JLP would not face the polls but Mr. Seaga, no matter where he ran, would have to face the judgement of the people.

"As I expected, Mr. Seaga continues to show contempt for the Jamaican people and democracy... (I) always wanted him to show his true colours," Mr. Manley told his constituents and close friends as he replied to toasts at his 61st birthday party at the Courtleigh Hotel.

The party, put on by the PNP East Central Kingston Constituency Executive, had in attendance officers and representatives from sections of the PNP who toasted Mr. Manley.

The PNP President said Mr. Seaga had postponed the election as he (Mr. Manley) thought Mr. Seaga would "not because they could not be ready--but for the instinctive chicanery for which they're noted--because they will not face the polls."

However, he said that Mr. Seaga could run north, south, east, west, he could not hide--sooner or later, he would have to face the judgement of the people.

In the meantime, Mr. Seaga continued to extend his period of illegitimacy, "but we don't accept him...he's not accepted by the people. We have the right and the people have the right to express a view about their government."

Mr. Manley declared: "He's playing games with Jamaica's future, tourism and the economy. He bears the sole and absolute responsibility for what happens in Jamaica from now on. We are not into guns, we are not into violence but we don't accept him."

He called on his supporters to be on the alert and to be ready. "Be disciplined and be prepared when you hear that trumpet," he said.

Referring to what he said was a major tax package which was coming, Mr. Manley said that the package was on the way because the Government's economic policy was wrong.

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CSO: 3298/268

JAMAICA

HOUSE BILL SETS LOCAL ELECTIONS DEADLINE FOR JULY 1986

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

A Bill extending the deadline for Local Government Elections to July 31, 1986, was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday.

Minister of Local Government, the Hon. Neville Lewis, who piloted the Bill, said that the extension was necessary because it was unlikely that the Director of Elections would be able to make the necessary provisions linked to the reforms in Local Government in time for the elections to be held prior to December 31, 1985, which is the current deadline.

The Bill, as passed, extends the time which may be appointed for the elections to a date not later than July 31, 1986.

The elections were last postponed in June, when the House passed a similar motion extending the deadline to December 31, 1985. This resulted from an impasse between political representatives on the Electoral Advisory Committee, which was triggered by Prime Minister Edward Seaga's announcement of the

Government's intention to reduce the number of Local Government divisions.

The impasse was resolved in October, when both the JLP and PNP agreed to accept the decision of the independent members of the Committee, which was to reduce the number of divisions from 278 to 189.

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CSO: 3298/268

JAMAICA

SEAGA'S TAX PROPOSALS CONTINUE TO DRAW ATTENTION

Unions' Plan

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Dec 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The six major trade unions have proposed a three-tier system of income tax to be introduced on a phased basis over a one year period.

In a joint paper released yesterday the unions said that although the new tax system would make some of their members "better off in the short run", its introduction is being rushed "under a shroud of ignorance and confusion." The unions have also raised several objections to the new system and have themselves outlined three proposals.

The Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU), National Workers Union (NWU), Trade Union Congress (TUC), Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO), Jamaica Union of Public Officers and Public Employees (JUPOPE) and the Union of Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Personnel (UTASP), noted that although the Government gave itself "all of three months to study the proposals it allowed the public and interested non-governmental organisations only

two weeks." Furthermore the government had stated that the new system when adopted would be implemented on January 1.

"The unions do not feel this is a wise approach. The introduction of a new tax system is a fundamental step and the time must be taken to ensure that the system is properly understood and that the people who will be affected will have the time and the chance to make an input in the decision. The present approach which appears to be rushing the new system into place under a shroud of ignorance and confusion is in our view fundamentally wrong," the unions said.

"The introduction of this system is being pursued with undue haste, we feel that this is unwise. More time is needed for people to understand and intelligently analyse and for government to explain the inconsistency between a tight IMF fiscal policy and the granting of \$200 million of tax relief."

While admitting that the net results of the new tax system would make some of their members "better off in the short run," the unions saw the system as lacking from two points of view: the removal of tax credits without adequate compensation and the banning of previous non-taxable allowances.

The unions also noted that the introduction of a \$7,500 non-tax base was not in their view a significant improvement as over the years inflation had rendered these credits inadequate.

Another criticism of the system was that it provided no incentive to save. "In the past, tax systems provided incentives for workers to save with insurance companies, building societies and the credit unions. The proposed system provides no such incentive.

"In addition we feel that the new system reflects certain limitations which emerge from: the inadequacy of the non-tax base; the banning of tax credits; the banning of non-taxable allowances and the absence of incentive to save."

Against the background of these comments the unions proposed a three tiered system of taxation introduced on a phased basis over one year. "This would allow the Income Tax department to put proper structures in place... it would also allow workers and employers to adjust to the new system," the paper said.

In this proposal incomes of less than \$15,000 would not be taxed except for statutory deductions; incomes of between \$15,001 and \$50,000, would have a 30% tax, including statutory deductions and those of \$50,001 and over would have a 35% tax, including statutory deductions.

They also proposed that individuals paying mortgage at the rate of \$1,500 per month or less should be granted a tax credit to the full value of interest paid on mortgage for a single dwelling and that credit should be linked to an index of housing prices and adjusted annually so that the real value is maintained.

The unions feel that government should aim at a situation which guarantees that those at the lower end of the salary scale do not suffer.

JMA Criticism

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A claim that the new tax reform programme was "a disguise" for additional taxation, was made on Friday by Mr. Paul Thomas, President of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association.

Speaking on Friday at a Customer Appreciation luncheon at the Terra Nova Hotel, St. Andrew, organised by Jamaica Graphics and Printery Supplies, Ltd, a member of the Carreras Group of Companies, the JMA President said he thought that the "tax reform measures were a thinly disguised proposal for additional taxation."

He said that if the proposals remained as they were, the middle management sector would be very disillusioned as they would find that they would be paying a considerable amount of income tax against the massive price increases and the diminishing possibility of owning a house.

"A frightening aspect of the tax proposals is that too few will be taxed too heavily...what is needed is a broad based tax system"

Sales tax

He said that the Government should look into the possibility of sales taxes which would of course exclude the taxation of basic food items. Such items like clothing and other luxury items, he said, should be taxed.

He said that what was needed also in the face of the many redundancies, was "a new cadre of tax collectors to implement this broad-based sales tax".

Mr. Thomas said he hoped that the tax reform committee would consider and discuss these proposals.

Although the JMA agreed with a new income tax system, it believed that the time given to the public to examine the proposals, was too short.

Neither were they satisfied with the additional seven days given by the Government to examine the proposals as there were several anomalies within the proposals that needed clarification and there were also difficulties in finding the right policy-makers to clarify some of these anomalies.

"The new year is going to be one of the most challenging year the country has ever faced", he said. He predicted that the country would have a heavy dependence on tourism and appealed to all Jamaicans and politicians to recognize the importance of the dependence on this industry.

"I think that the Government should be careful...to rush into implementing these new (tax) reforms could trigger off some disaster that would be harmful to tourism..."

He said that next year the manufacturing sector might be coming into its own as pre- and post- settlement financing was now available and accessible without a bank guarantee and on a case by case basis.

The JMA president felt that people should be given more incentive to use the Export Development Fund.

He said that one of the major disease affecting the entire productive sector was "A.I.D.S." - 'Advancing Interest Deflation Syndrome' which weakened the ability of the productive sector to expand and meet the nation's needs. "Interest rates must come down for productive purposes," he said.

Manley Assessment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Dec 85 p 3

[Text]

Mr. Michael Manley, President of the People's National Party, said on Monday that the initial study by his party and other groups of the Income Tax Reform proposals, clearly indicated that contrary to what the Government had said, the measures would result in significant tax increases on an already tax-burdened people.

According to a release from the party Mr. Manley in addressing a forum at the Glenmuir High School auditorium on Sunday said that despite what he called the Government's obvious contempt for the

views of the people and its discouragement and attempted avoidance of meaningful and critical analysis, the PNP would be continuing its study of the proposals. He said that the Prime Minister's threat to begin to implement the proposals by January 1, 1986, was bound to cause disruption and chaos, given the late presentation of the proposals.

The extension of the time for the study of the Income Tax Reform proposals fulfilled no useful purpose since it was still obviously insufficient to enable meaningful consultations with the people and their representative organisations, Mr. Manley told the gathering. He said the PNP had therefore concluded

that the Jamaica Labour Party had no intention of encouraging, promoting or facilitating the necessary discussion.

"This has been another example of rule by edict and of this Government's intention to use Parliament as a rubber stamp for the Prime Minister's decision," Mr. Manley said.

Mr. Manley presented analyses of the economic, social and political situation in Jamaica and gave an outline of some of the more important areas of the policy which would be pursued by the next Government of the People's National Party.

Mr. O. D. Ramtallie, PNP Vice President was chairman of the meeting.

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CS0: 3298/268

JAMAICA

DEVELOPMENTS ON LABOR FRONT; NEW LABOR LAW STUDIED

Trade Union Wage Accord

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

The Bustamante Industrial Trade Union has indicated acceptance of the Government's pay offer to unionised public sector workers retroactive to July 1, and has asked the Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. Errol Anderson, to see to the implementation of the pay increases by tomorrow.

In a letter to Mr. Anderson dated Tuesday, the union's vice-president, Mr. Lascelles Beckford, said that the workers had been awaiting the adjustments for some time and the union would like the cut-off point to be Friday.

The letter said: "We further request that the various authorities pay all retroactive wages owed to the workers arising out of the wage adjustments for the period July 1, 1985, to December 6, not later than December 18.

"We understand that the wage increases approved by your Ministry

will reflect among other things a wage increase of 18% effective July 1, 1985, with a further increase of 10% from July 1, 1986, with 50% of both years' increases to be tax-free."

The **Gleaner** understands that although the main unions in the public sector, including the BITU, have not yet signed an agreement with the Government for improvements in pay and fringe benefits, in that sector there is an acceptance of the Government's offer which is being put into effect. The NWU has already indicated its willingness to accept the offer, on condition that no other set of unionised workers are granted more benefits, while JUPORT and the Jamaica Workers Union have already signed agreements.

Teachers' 'No' to Government Offer

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

TEACHERS IN THE ISLAND'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS have rejected Government's proposal of a maximum 12½% wage increase which was offered to them on Thursday, December 5, at the Ministry of the Public Service in New Kingston.

Three regional meetings of teachers held in Montego Bay, Mandeville and Kingston this week all rejected the Government's offer of 12½% to trained and pre-trained teachers and 10% to all other categories and mandated the Jamaica Teachers Association to seek an improved offer from Government.

Teachers have now joined policemen and nurses in rejecting the Government's offer.

The negotiating team of the JTA, which represents 80% of the island's teachers received the offer at a meeting with the Hon. Errol Anderson, Minister of the Public Service, but could not make a decision unless it had a mandate from its membership.

The National Union of Democratic Teachers, which represents some of the teachers, also said it rejected the latest offer.

Yesterday's JTA meeting, held at the Mico College, had people coming from as far as Clarendon and all eastern parishes. JTA President Victor Edwards told the several hundred teachers who crammed the auditorium of strategies already employed by the JTA in its effort to get the Government "to come to its senses." He mentioned the disruption of the school feeding programme, Heritage Week activities and preparations for the coming Festival.

The JTA, he said, still had its contingency plans which would very likely be put into effect as soon as the Association's General Council decided.

A source has told the **Gleaner** that if any part of this plan is put into effect it will have far-reaching effects on the educational system.

However, the JTA president, when pressed to tell what the plans were, told the meeting that they would have to remain a secret until the General Council of the JTA decided on what aspect of the plan to implement.

With shouts of "New increase now!" "Address the claim now!" and wild cheering, various teachers talked of a resoluteness to the salaries issue. Said one teacher from Clarendon, "Time is going. We can't sit now and allow Government to drag its feet." One very emotional

teacher from St. Thomas said that it seemed like a cat and mouse game. She said that the 12½% for trained teachers and 10% for graduates would very likely cause a rift between the two groups "and the Ministry knows this. We are not going to take it — even if they cut off our necks on the blocks, we will stay and die to the bitter end. We want our part of the deal now," she said.

"We will never accept 12½%, nor over our dead bodies!" said another.

Mrs. Dorothy Raymond, President of the St. Andrew Parish Teachers Association, gave a background of how the last exercise with the minister went. She said that in 1986 it would be the teachers' cause first.

On the matter of the new tax reforms the JTA president said that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Seaga, had contacted the JTA on their proposal and figures, and realized that the figures of the JTA contradicted that of the Revenue Board. In light of this, the Revenue Board is to look

The Union rejected the offer on Tuesday when they met with the Minister of the Public Service.

The NUDT is calling a special meeting of its delegates tomorrow at the union's offices at 5.30 p.m. over the matter.

The meeting passed three resolutions: (1) that the JTA seeks by whatever means, legal or otherwise, to ensure that the Education Tax is used to settle the teachers' salary claim as was intended (2) that the Government honours its own guideline and keeps its promise to the teachers about the use of the Education Tax, and (3) that the JTA never relent or desist from the struggle until the salaries claim is satisfactorily addressed.

At the end of the meeting the teachers sang 'We shall overcome.'

Discussion of New Labor Law

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

THE POWERS OF THE MINISTER OF LABOUR and of the Industrial Disputes Tribunal are being widened under new amending legislation introduced in Parliament yesterday.

The Minister, the Hon J.A.G. Smith, opened debate on the far-reaching amendments to the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act (LRIDA) as well as on a companion measure amending the Employment (Termination and Redundancy Payments) Act, in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Smith after a brief opening of the debate, in which he referred to the assurance given by Junior Doctors to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal (IDT) yesterday to resume normality, said that the debate would be deferred to the next sitting of the House, which will be in January.

He said the amendments came out of reports from a tripartite committee of representatives of Government, employers and trade unions which had been appointed by him to review the labour laws. He said too that these were the first amendments proposed for the LRIDA since 1978.

The Bill amending the LRIDA seeks to do the following:

- Increase the fines for failure to comply with an order or award by the IDT;

- Increase the fines for unlawful industrial action;

- Give to the Tribunal discretionary powers to hear industrial disputes notwithstanding that one of the parties fails to appear;

- Extend the Tribunal's power to issue an order when industrial action is threatened;

- Require employers in essential services to keep up-to-date and accurate register of the names and addresses of all workers according to department or bargaining units, and to supply such register to the Minister or Tribunal on notice in writing;

- Include overseas telecommunication services and telephone services as essential services;

- Prohibit industrial action, on pain of contempt proceedings, while a dispute is being dealt with by a Civil Court;

- Allow the Minister to apply ex parte to the Court for an order restraining the parties in certain circumstances affecting the national interest.

The Bill amending the Employment (Termination and Redundancy Payments) Act seeks to:

- Permit workers who have been laid-off for longer than 120 days to elect to be treated as made redundant;

- Require an employer to give minimum notice of eight weeks when he is terminating the services of a worker with a period of continuous employment of 15 years or more, but less than 20 years;

- Require an employee to give minimum notice of 10 weeks when he is terminating the services of a worker who has been continuously employed for 20 years or more.

Mr. Smith had to defer further debate minutes after he opened it, when Members, notably Mr. Neville Murray (West-Central St. Mary), brought to his attention that they were not fully aware of the matter as copies of the Bill had not been circulated to them.

The Minister said that in the circumstance he would defer the debate until the next sitting in January.

/6091

CSO: 3298/268

JAMAICA

DEBATE OVER GOVERNMENT ROLE IN BROADCASTING CONTINUES

Opposition PNP Views

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Dec 85 p 24

[Text] The President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, has suggested that Prime Minister Edward Seaga put the management of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) under the same formula as the Electoral Advisory Committee.

Mr. Manley said that National Hero Norman Manley wanted the JBC to be a model of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). He said, however, that it was tragic that Mr. Seaga began the destruction of the JBC from the '60s.

Mr. Manley told his Party's monthly forum at the National Arena Wednesday night that he wanted the JBC to be an institution of trust, and he had been advised not to divest it but put the Corporation on the same management formula as the Electoral Advisory Committee.

Accusing Mr. Seaga as having the worst record of relations with the media since the '60s, Mr. Manley said that the one good thing that the Prime Minister could do to restore the JBC to "credibility and impartiality" was to implement a management structure along the lines of the Electoral Advisory Committee.

The PNP President, referring to the proposal to set up the Broadcasting Commission, said that he was very glad that Mr. Seaga had tried to undo the long history of ills toward the Press.

But he said that because of the source of the announcement he was going to "watch it scrupulously." "We wonder whether it's a device to head off criticism; but we're going to struggle for him to hold word by word to his words," Mr. Manley declared.

He expressed the hope that the Media Commission would work closely with the working media, adding that he wished representatives of the print and electronic media would be included on the Commission.

Mr. Manley hailed the ownership structure of RJR as one of the most dynamic examples of worker participation in Jamaica with workers owning large chunks of stock.

Under a new PNP Government, workers at the JBC would have the same opportunity of participation as their counterparts at RJR, he said.

Seaga on Government Divestment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Dec 85 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced in Parliament yesterday that the Government would not be interested in retaining 25 per cent ownership in the entities under the proposed ownership structure of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC).

Mr. Seaga had told Parliament in September when he unveiled elements of the Government's media policy that the administration would retain 25 per cent ownership as equity in the entities that would be leased to the private sector.

In opening the debate the Prime Minister said that because of the contention by a "vested interest party" that the Government's 25 per cent ownership in the media would give it control, that 25 per cent would be divested by the Government as well.

All the existing entities except television and radio which would be used for public broadcasting, would be divested. If the operators of the entities proved successful, they would have an "inside track" in the ownership of television, Mr. Seaga said.

However, he told Parliament that what was intended was not to divest to the highest monetary bidder. The

JBC was currently working out the charges for the use of its facilities which would become a fixed component with every bid, he said.

The Broadcasting Commission, which the Bill seeks to establish, will be advising on the terms and conditions for award of the licences, one of its first functions when it is set up. The criteria for granting licences were being worked on and an announcement would be made shortly.

Mr. Seaga repeated that in the ownership of media by the private sector, the Government would not consider the licensing of any entity owned by another station in the broadcast media, a regulation which existed in the United States of America under the Federal Communications Commission.

The Bill aims to foster impartiality and accuracy with right of reply in the electronic media.

/6091

CSO: 3298/268

MEXICO

LABOR CONGRESS CHIEF WARNS OF POSSIBLE SOCIAL CONFLICTS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Dec 85 pp 1-A, 14-A

[Article by J.G. Reyes]

[Excerpt] Tijuana, Baja California Norte, 13 Dec--Angel Olivo Solis, the president of the Labor Congress, has said that 1985 has been a "very bad" year for the workers because of the grave crisis that has plagued and is plaguing the country. He warned that if the working class is not given incentives and if unscrupulous merchants are not stopped, the situation would degenerate into social conflicts.

It is his opinion that the increase in the minimum wage must be large enough to really benefit workers. He did not mention a specific percentage but clarified that not even three minimum wages would be enough to restore the workers' buying power.

Olivo Solis was interviewed after the Mexican Wholesale Markets Program (MERCAMEX) was put into operation. Under this 33 billion peso program supply centers will be established, like here in Tijuana, for small business.

Olivo Solis accompanied the director of CONASUPO [National Company for Basic Commodities], Jose Ernesto Costemalle, and the state's governor, Xicotencatl Leyva Mortera, who were in charge of inaugurating the program.

The law of the jungle prevails among us, Olivo said, adding that there is no protection for consumers and that competition is marginal, which makes it impossible to halt the abuses of certain merchants. He noted that our commerce law dates back to 1894 and, thus, that new legislation is needed in this area.

He repeated that the workers have been very bad off in 1985 and that conflicts could arise next year unless appropriate incentives are offered to them.

Regarding Mexico's possible entry into GATT, he emphasized that it would cause unemployment among the working classes and impose sacrifices on the country's lower-income segments.

He scored the actions of the Office of the Federal Attorney for the Consumer, accusing it of not defending the rights of the workers. "The work of that office also has to be redefined so that it really defends the rights of the workers against price-gouging merchants."

The labor leader said subsequently that the Labor Congress is awaiting the decision of the National Minimum Wage Commission on the percentage increase in wages, and he clarified that however much it is, it would in no way be inflationary and must be realistic.

8743

CSO: 3248/124

MEXICO

CIUDAD JUAREZ BISHOP CRITICIZES STATE ELECTION LAW CHANGES

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Dec 85 pp 4-A, 22-A

[From "Political Fronts" column, by Carlos A. Medina]

[Text] In an overt interference in political matters, the bishop of Ciudad Juarez, Manuel Talamas Camandari, criticized the amendments made in the State of Chihuahua's state electoral law, and accused the government of deceiving the people, and creating mistrust in electoral processes, declaring that "the violations and impositions of candidates through fraudulent processes have been multiplied in a subtle manner."

The Chihuahua prelate did not beat about the bush; and, according to correspondent Alejandro Irigoyen, Talamas Camandari remarked that, "The government should not deceive itself, thinking that promises to respect the vote will suffice for the people, because it has proven that they have often been broken." He claimed that the electoral processes are filled with flaws and fraud, and that the immorality "in the electoral process continues to foster a sense of civic disillusionment among the people."

He maintained that his comments are not intended to benefit or harm any political party, but rather that his reason for making these statements is based on his consideration of the electoral immorality, "because the recent amendments in the Chihuahua electoral law will heighten and deform the civic consciousness of many Mexicans to an even greater extent."

According to the Juarez bishop, instead of making amendments in the law which only benefit the system, the government should have approved one that "would have stipulated that any person with the full use of his rights as a citizen and with the full use of his mental faculties, could be a representative of a party at an election booth and that the polls would be transparent." He noted that the people would immediately change from mistrust to trusting in the rulers' word that their vote would be respected.

2909

CSO: 3248/101

MEXICO

CREA HEAD CALLED STRONG CONTENDER FOR SINALOA GOVERNORSHIP

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Dec 85 pp 4-A, 17-A, 20-A, 35-A

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 14 Dec--In discussing his prospects as a candidate for state governor he says that "the time has not yet come for people in my generation to serve as governors, because my political watch tells me so." Nevertheless, just 3 months before the announcement of a candidate, local circles are constantly mentioning Heriberto Galindo Quinones, the director general of CREA [National Council on Resources for Attention to Youth], as one of the "serious contenders" for state governor, vying with other major political figures, including a cabinet secretary, a senator and a local politician, all of whom have strong chances.

Galindo Quinones has been in charge of CREA since 18 December 1982. As we know, this organization is devoted to helping our young people, who make up almost three-quarters of the country, since 72 percent of Mexicans are under age 30. He has now organized a wide-ranging political and cultural mobilization in the 18 municipalities in this northeastern state, a mobilization that has been joined by a great many artists, intellectuals, writers, scholars and specialists in fields such as history, culture, and local and national politics.

Galindo Quinones kicked off the 10-day event today in front of an audience of 8,000, most of them young people, in the Angel Flores baseball stadium. Also in attendance were Governor Antonio Toledo Corro, the mayor of Culiacan, other mayors and state congressmen, a number of state and federal public officials, and representatives of political, educational and cultural institutions in the state.

Addressing the audience, Heriberto Galindo Quinones said that "this homage to Sinaloa, a meeting place for all cultural and ideological currents," is designed to enhance the state's dignity and prestige and "to help dispel the bad reputation that small groups of lawbreakers have created and that has blemished our beautiful Sinaloa."

He noted that the mobilization would strengthen bonds in the state and "play a leading role in national life" by paying homage to illustrious Sinaloans who are examples to be emulated.

He added that this festival of Sinaloan youth, CREA 85, is also designed to spread and enrich culture, education and politics in the 18 municipalities. All of these fields "are as important as producing food on the land and in the sea or as promoting mining, industry, commerce and tourism." Furthermore, he stated, we cannot live together without a plan that preserves the best of the past and takes advantage of the vigor and modernity of our people today to "face the future with a democratic, pluralist model in which private enterprise combines with government action to develop the personnel we need. Thus, CREA is preserving what Sinaloans have accomplished in the past to build a better future for tomorrow's Sinaloans."

In his brief address Governor Antonio Toledo Corro recalled that 1985 is the International Year of Youth, as well as the year in which we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our independence and the 75th anniversary of the 1910 social uprising, which "has enabled us to live now in a climate of peace, hard work and freedom."

He underscored that "only in this climate of peace and freedom" can citizens become involved in and stage an event like this, which will show that culture has been and will continue to be an overriding factor in educating peoples and an opportunity for learning and social integration.

Galindo Quinones asserted afterwards that such efforts are in keeping with President Miguel de la Madrid's encouragement, support and confidence in Mexico's young people and in the people of Sinaloa, for whom he has worked out policies that will insure justice, independence, revolution and peace.

He expressed his desire that this festival "further strengthen our state, our happy and peace-loving people" and serve as an example so that the nation can surmount the economic crisis besetting us.

Galindo Quinones has been director of the National Consumer Institute of the Technological Museum and headed up the mass media department of the Finance Secretariat and the Federal Electricity Commission. Interviewed separately, he discussed the possibility of running for governor of Sinaloa, saying that he felt that the time had not yet come for his generation to govern the state. Now is not the time, because highly qualified people are around at present.

"I think that in politics it is very important for politicians to be fully aware of their time, their reality and their circumstances. And my time, my reality and my circumstances tell me that now is not the moment to run for governor. My political watch tells me not yet..."

He acknowledged, however: "My political watch tells me that I might run for the post in 6, 12 or 18 years," adding: "They will definitely not call me."

Some analysts say that he is "too young" (34) to run. And Heriberto Galindo has this to say when reminded of other youthful governors like Mariano Palacios (32), Pedro Joaquin Coldwell (33) or Alfredo del Mazo, who was 37 when he took over as governor of the state of Mexico: "The conditions in

Queretaro were surely right and it was Mariano Palacios' time to run; this is why he was nominated and then elected by the people of Queretaro. The same was the case in Quintana Roo or the state of Mexico. But under current circumstances and at this moment I don't think I have the slightest chance, and I don't think I will either, because I'm not in the race, I'm not competing."

When told that this CREA event has brought together a great many well-known intellectuals and artists around him, he makes a bit of a face, as if disapproving, and exclaims: "In the first place, I brought them together around Sinaloa, not myself. The festival just happens to have been staged here, which also just so happens to be where I'm from, but I feel that all of this is a homage to the state. Distinguished residents of Sinaloa from every field and across the ideological spectrum have come here, totally devoid of partisan excesses. Of course distinguished Mexicans who are not from this state have also come, such as Carlos Monsivais, Eraclio Zepeda, Antonio Rodriguez, Gutierrez Tibon, as well as various musical groups, poets, scholars, painters and writers; they have come to take part in this show of enthusiasm for Sinaloa, this tribute to its great names." According to a number of residents of the state capital, never before has such an event been staged here. At least residents do not recall anything comparable: 10 days of ongoing activities in all of the state's 18 municipalities.

In this regard Heriberto Galindo asserts that "we have not come here to impress anyone or to set the world on fire or to downplay what our fellow Sinaloans are already doing here. On the contrary, we have come to acknowledge what has been done here in my home state, to fertilize the seeds that have already been planted so that they will bear richer fruit and provide continuity."

"We hope to set up an organizing committee of the Sinaloa Youth Festival in 1986 so that we can all bring together manpower and funding and coordinate with various federal, state and municipal institutions, as well as with worker and peasant organizations, social institutions (such as universities) and private groups.

"I feel that investing in education and culture is a priority with high social value and will be of great benefit to the nation and, hence, to Sinaloa." He went on to clarify that "neither Heriberto Galindo nor any other politician from Sinaloa called on or brought together intellectuals or artists; it was the institution that one citizen of Sinaloa directs that did so."

What do you think about the conflicts going on in this state?

"I think that the state has problems, which of course we have to solve, and that the conflicts in all the states can be best resolved by opening up political, cultural and recreational opportunities, by creating more jobs and in particular by proper social guidance and appropriate integration. I feel that conflicts must be resolved not only by the government but also through a concerted effort by the state and society."

In his speech in the governor's presence he referred to "certain small groups that have given the state a bad name."

"These small groups are fomenting the conflicts. So, the problems that Sinaloa has are caused not by the majority of people here but by 'very localized minorities.' So I feel that we not should play into the hands of these groups because that would mean cementing the state's bad reputation and doing it harm. We must form a common front and guide the state along the path of peaceful and harmonious coexistence, rather than fall into the trap that violent minorities are setting for society."

In this regard, we can see that in local newspapers and in people's conversations there is constant mention of murders and shootouts, which are upshots of drug trafficking. Now, according to local residents, the situation is getting worse, although the state government is reportedly trying to put an end to this atmosphere, at least in the state capital, before the panic spreads.

Galindo Quinones denies that the violence has become severe. He admits, however, that "there are situations of violence that have to be tempered and combatted" with the remedies that he has mentioned, but "I do not believe that the violence is widespread."

He feels that the administration of Toledo Corro (which ends on 31 December 1986) will show "a positive bottom line." Farm and livestock production is up; there have been improvements in roads, education and culture. I think that the bottom line is positive and that the government changeover will be very peaceful and harmonious."

In conclusion he spoke about the group of Sinaloa residents who have made their presence strongly felt in Mexico City.

What do you think about the group that has been formed, which is something like the old "Veracruz Group"?

"There is no group. There are a lot of very distinguished Sinaloans in Mexico City, but they are not a clan. There are no Sinaloa clubs, nor is there any group with credentials. These are Sinaloans who have distinguished themselves individually and who are involved in a wide range of activities on several fronts. They love their home state and have a highly developed sense of social and political duty. They seek harmony and progress for their state but are not part of a sector. Almost the only thing they have in common is their desire to serve Mexico and Sinaloa. There are more than 2,000 distinguished Sinaloans there and they are working together with the people back here and doing whatever they can to help our state."

Well then, what is the "Chilorio power" group that you are reportedly a member of?

"This is a joke that some chilango [capital city] friends thought up, because chilorio is a Sinaloan dish. It is in no way a force. This is a joke that friends who are not from Sinaloa tell in good taste, and we take it with a smile."

MEXICO

PRI CHIHUAHUA CANDIDATE SELECTION FEEDS INTRAPARTY STRIFE

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 474, 2 Dec 85 pp 10-15

[Article by Elias Chavez]

[Excerpt] A fireman who has put out a thousand fires, Fidel Velazquez is hastening to extinguish a fire in Chihuahua that "is threatening the entire Mexican political system" and in so doing he has started the race for governor.

The outcome of the race will affect more than just the state's future. It will also have a major impact on national politics, PROCESO was told by the governor of Chihuahua, the archbishop, the leaders of the main competing parties, representatives of private enterprise and labor unions, and some potential gubernatorial candidates.

Extremely bitter over the involvement of "the center" in Governor Oscar Ornelas' fall, the people of Chihuahua are watching as gubernatorial hopefuls emerge. Representing PRI are:

Fernando Baeza Fernandez, a national congressman with links to Oscar Flores Sanchez, whom he served as private secretary, chief clerk and mayor of Chihuahua. He was later the chief clerk in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, where he remained as first assistant attorney general along with Sergio Garcia Ramirez.

Alfonso Aguirre Ramos, a national congressman and army general. He is said to have support from two other generals: Ramon Mota Sanchez, the secretary of protection and roads in the DDF [Federal District Department], and Carlos Humberto Bermudez, the presidential chief of staff.

Cesar Franco Chavez and Manuel E. Russek Gamero, both sponsored by Manuel Bernardo Aguirre, during whose government Franco Chavez served as treasurer and Russek Gamero as secretary general of government. Franco Chavez is currently the state PRI president.

Two other hopefuls can boast, if not that they are being sponsored by, at least that they were college classmates of President Miguel de la Madrid: Jose

Socorro Salcido Gomez, a senator, and Juan Manuel Terrazas, a former national congressman and former delegate of the Labor Secretariat in Chihuahua.

Jose Ernesto Costemalle, the general manager of CONASUPO [National Company for Basic Commodities], is identified as part of the "group" of Mexico City's mayor, Ramon Aguirre Velazquez, while another hopeful, Enrique Soto Izquierdo, a former national congressman, is linked to the "group" of former House leader Humberto Lugo Gil, the current director of Airports and Auxiliary Services.

The PAN [National Action Party] hopefuls currently govern 70 percent of the people of Chihuahua: Francisco Barrio, the mayor of Ciudad Juarez, and Luis H. Alvarez, the mayor of Chihuahua.

One candidate has already beaten the others to the punch. Last week, on Monday the 18th, Ruben Aguilar, a PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] national congressman, launched his candidacy for governor, with the backing of the Popular Defense Committee, and got the jump on the leftwing parties that are trying to unite and run a joint candidate.

Stronger than ever before, PAN is preparing to "break the system" by winning its first governorship in a state that has repeatedly (1983 and 1985) voted for it.

A PAN victory in the governor's race would jeopardize the system, and thus PRI has begun a counterattack using its biggest gun: Fidel Velazquez.

A tall man in any case, the leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] looked like a giant at the Olimpia movie theater in the capital of Chihuahua on Sunday the 17th as he not only urged but demanded unity among PRI members "to defeat the reactionaries" in the upcoming elections.

Nearing his 90th birthday, Fidel is like an enraged lion lashing out as he speaks:

He calls the PAN people and their allies the businessmen, "traitors to the homeland," holding them responsible for "insidious efforts that in Chihuahua have the look of a separatist movement."

Fidel! Fidel! chant his followers, amid the ovation launched by alternate Governor Saul Gonzalez Herrera and former Governors Teofilo Borunda and Manuel Bernardo Aguirre, who were invited to the assembly "to demonstrate PRI unity."

Everyone acknowledges that Velazquez' attitude was decisive in Governor Ornelas' fall 2 months before, with the state PRI organization divided and on its death bed. Fidel is now reviving the Chihuahua PRI and preparing it for the battle against PAN. But he is also charging a fee for his services.

Getting the jump on the PRI National Executive Committee (CEN), Fidel sent one of his confidants, Alfonso G. Calderon, the adjunct secretary general and former governor of Sinaloa, to size up the situation. He toured the entire state and "consulted with the rank and file" as to who the gubernatorial

candidate should be. According to Calderon and the state leader of the CTM, Doroteo Zapata, "the rank and file have a great guide who speaks and decides for them: Fidel Velazquez.

Having become a decisive vote [gran elector], Fidel asserts that "no one and nothing will divert the revolution's course in Chihuahua" and that the CTM will again become the determining factor in "unveiling" the gubernatorial candidate.

Complacency

In contrast, Governor Saul Gonzalez does not want to become a decisive vote. Interviewed in his office in the Governor's Mansion, he also rejects the title of "the number one PRI man" that is customarily given to governors in their respective states or to the president of the republic nationwide.

"I am not the number one PRI man in the state. I reject that title because it implies that there is a number two, three, four and five PRI man. Here we all have parallel responsibilities, and the consolidation of PRI and of its interrelated institutions depends on discharging them."

The governor asserts that PRI's election defeats in 1983 and 1985 were due to "special circumstances, mainly the economic crisis," and that the vote for PAN "is not one of acceptance but rather a show of annoyance and hurt because of the crisis."

Although he claims to be convinced that the majority of the people of Chihuahua will vote for PRI at the next election, the governor levels criticism at his party:

"We have placed our trust in the force of inertia. We believed that what had always happened, our election victories, would keep on happening without us having to work hard. And this prompted neglect, laziness, oversights and even tactical and procedural mistakes."

Saul Gonzalez agrees that among the people of Chihuahua there is a "pained feeling" over the central government's involvement in state politics, but he also criticizes those who "simplistically" unfurl the banner of decentralization without realizing that "to keep Mexico united, political and administrative decision-making must also be unified. I do not see decentralization as the atomization of decision-making."

With regard to the imminent unveiling of the candidate for governor ("the mother lion will give birth in mid-December," Manuel Bernardo Aguirre opines) the governor has this to say:

"I am certain that PRI will listen to the opinion of the majority, in choosing not only its gubernatorial candidate but also the candidates for mayors and state congressmen. And I know well that when the party listens to the opinions of the majority in making internal party decisions, it also listens

to the opinions of the majority in institutional elections. There will be no more neglect or carelessness, nor will we against rely on inertia."

Among those feeling the acute pain of resentment against the "politicians from the center," the director of the Chihuahua Business Center (COPARMEX [Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic]), Guillermo Villalobos, has complained that "PRI and the system are organizing once again to prevent democracy from moving forward in Chihuahua and throughout Mexico."

The business leader calls Fidel Velazquez "stupid" and "senile" for having accused PAN and businessmen of betraying Mexico.

"Why are we traitors?" asks Villalobos, adding:

"The fact that we want to put the principles of the constitution into practice does not make us traitors. On the contrary. It is treason to impede the functioning of the constitution, as Fidel Velazquez and many others in government are doing."

In his criticisms of the "politicians from the center," Villalobos speaks out against "the rigidity and intolerance" of those who would prohibit the involvement of businessmen in politics. He charges:

"The center wants to send us a governor who will take a rigid, intolerant approach, crack down on the opposition and see to it that PRI retains power."

Nothing to Do With Chilangos [individuals from the nation's capital]

Villalobos resents not only the "politicians from the center" but chilangos in general. This reporter indicated as much to him, and he admitted it.

"Yes, we resent and look down on the people from the capital, because ever since last century they have treated us like underage children. They accuse us of being anti-Mexican because we do not slavishly consent to their designs. They claim that we are losing our nationality, but the fact is that we are simply not bowing slavishly to them."

The brown-haired, almost blond Villalobos then gives vent to his ill will by telling a few jokes:

"Do you know why there are blacks in the United States and chilangos in Mexico?" he asked this reporter.

"Why?"

"Because the United States got to choose first."

On the day of the earthquake, Villalobos says, two residents of Chihuahua had this conversation:

"You know that the earthquake killed 1,000 people in the Federal District, don't you?"

"A thousand, no. A lot more died."

"I said people. The rest were chilangos."

Villalobos then adds: "Don't give me a nasty look." He explains why people feel this way:

"The fact is that an unjust centralism is oppressing us. Just look at how worn out the system is and at how discredited PRI is. In the July elections a very well-known man from Chihuahua, Ramiro Alvidres, whom PRI ran in the first election district, was beaten by an unknown PAN chilango, Eduardo Turat, who has lived in Chihuahua for just 3 years. Even a chilango was able to beat him! This shows how worn out PRI and the system are."

The anti-PRI feelings of the Business Center's director are opposed, apparently solely for convenience sake, by the powerful Chihuahua Group led by Eloy Vallina.

"Eloy Vallina is a PRI man; he supports the system. And the Chihuahua Group is nationalist and therefore works with PRI and the system," Armando Aranzazola states. He is the director of the Chihuahua Cultural Center, a spokesman for Eloy Vallina and the Chihuahua Group, PRI's cultural action secretary and public relations secretary for the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations].

So then, which businessmen are PAN's allies and traitors to Mexico, as Fidel Velazquez charges?

"Private enterprise has supported PAN," Aranzazola explains, "but not all of private enterprise. In CANACINTRA [National Association of the Manufacturing Industry] and CANACO [Mexico City Chamber of Commerce] there are people who have identified with PAN over the past 2 or 3 years. But the Vallina group has no quarrel with Fidel. On the contrary, we support PRI and we will back its gubernatorial candidate."

The Chihuahua Group supports the alternate governor, Saul Gonzalez, just as it supported Oscar Ornelas, whom it regards as "irreproachably honest."

It also voices support for the Federal Government in spite of the bank nationalization in which the Chihuahua Group lost one of its main pillars.

"Yes, losing the financial sector was hard on us," Aranzazola explains, "but we have remained an industrial group. Eloy does not allow himself to get carried away by anger; he remains within the system and retains his industries. Although they've taken away our banks, we still have everything else."

With Fidel Velazquez involved body and soul in an effort to unify and control labor in Chihuahua, PRI is endeavoring to do the same with management. Since they had to find a man who was cut out for the job, PRI initially planned to send in one of Mexico's biggest businessmen, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, as its general delegate to take charge of unveiling its gubernatorial candidate and run a successful campaign.

At the last minute, however, the PRI National Executive Committee sent one of the former Mexico City mayor's lieutenants, Manuel Gurria Ordonez, a national congressman, former mayor of Villahermosa and former secretary general of government in the DDF.

Counseled by Hank, Gurria Ordonez has been endeavoring for 2 months now to ingratiate PRI with Chihuahua businessmen. Even the party's state president, Cesar Franco Chavez, has been engaged in the effort, qualifying Fidel Velazquez's accusations:

"One cannot generalize and condemn all businessmen," he says. Don Fidel was talking about the ones who unabashedly boost their profits even though in so doing they are thwarting the country's independent development. Fortunately, there are nationalist businessmen who sympathize with PRI in Chihuahua."

Franco Chavez acknowledges that PRI has become bogged down, but he says that it is because of the passivity and lack of unity among PRI people themselves, not because of PAN's gains, which he regards as "temporary, short-term."

"We held power for so long without having real opposition," he explains, "that we grew overconfident. We thought that selecting a candidate was all we had to do. And although I still believe that the opposition in Chihuahua is circumstantial, not real and organized, the fact is that we have to redouble our efforts and bring the PRI sectors closer together so that they will do campaign work and then cast their ballots. This is the only way we will surmount the situation."

Furthermore, the PRI leader says that he is hard at work democratizing his party internally.

"All of the candidates we run in the upcoming elections, whether for governor, state congressman or mayor, will genuinely be the ones that the PRI rank and file chooses."

To abolish the practice of appointment from above in Chihuahua, Franco Chavez asserts that PRI will adopt methods such as plebiscites, open consultations or elections in which PRI members will nominate their candidates. "We will thus select our finest people and gain credibility. What we say and what we do will be consistent."

He even voices his hope that the center will not select candidates.

"The PRI general delegate has told us," the state leader indicates, "that the CEN instructed him to listen to the people of Chihuahua and let them be the ones who decide and carry out state policy."

Mentioned as a gubernatorial hopeful, Franco Chavez remarks: "As a president of PRI, I am not motivated by any personal or group interest. I know what I am here for. As a lifelong member of PRI I will devote my every effort to serving the party, to waging an earnest battle in the upcoming election campaign."

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MEXICO

PRI SINALOA PRECANDIDATES; IN CHIHUAHUA RACE DRUG TIE RUMORS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Dec 85 pp 4-A, 22-A

[From "Political Fronts" column, by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] No Indications in Sinaloa

The reports, the second ones, were submitted by the mayors of the 18 municipalities in Sinaloa, and they gave no indications as to who Antonio Toledo Corro's successor might be as governor, Sergio Galindo, a correspondent in Mazatlan, informs us.

The reason was that all of the "potential" candidates were careful not to show up in any of the state's municipalities. Thus, speculation continues as to whether it will be Francisco Labastida, the head of SEMIP; one of the two senators, Ernesto Millan Escalante or Juan S. Millan; or a national deputy such as Salvador Robles Quintero and Diego Valadez.

In addition, our correspondent reports that there was disappointment in Mazatlan when this port was taken off the itinerary that President Miguel de la Madrid will follow during his swing through Sinaloa tomorrow, Tuesday, and Wednesday; he will be visiting Los Mochis and Culiacan.

It was also reported that national congressmen from Sinaloa are annoyed that the state government has not given them funds to channel into their districts, even though they requested it in writing.

Low Blows

In Chihuahua, where Ernesto Costemalle, the director of the National Company for Basic Commodities (CONASUPO), is seeking the PRI gubernatorial nomination, a great many low blows have been thrown, reports Manuel Cabrera, our correspondent in Ciudad Juarez. To tarnish Costemalle's image, peasant farmers have been incited to occupy CONASUPO warehouses; Congressman Fernando Baeza has been accused of having links with drug trafficking and of having been a PAN [National Action Party] youth leader in Las Delicias; former PRI Congressman Juan Manuel Terrazas said that "all of Chihuahua knows that Senator Socorro Salcido is unfit to govern," and Gen Alonso Aguirre, a congressman, is said to have no influence in the state.

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MEXICO

DARK VIEW OF PAN CHIHUAHUA CONTENDER F. BARRIO PRESENTED

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 474 2 Dec 85 pp 10-11

[For related item, see JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT of 31 Jul 85 JPRS-LAM-85-066 , pp 117-118]

[Text] Charismatic with a double meaning (theological and political), Francisco Barrio governs Ciudad Juarez with the gift that God has given him and with the use of the public force, propaganda and manipulation of the masses.

A member of the "Holy Spirit Renewal Movement," also called the "Charismatic Movement" (and by the misnomer "The Pentacostals"), this mayor is a newly created PAN [National Action Party] member.

While head of the Ciudad Juarez Business Center, Barrio was convinced by the religious group to which he belongs to run in February 1983 as a candidate for the municipal mayor's office, backed by the Civic Front for Citizens' Participation, an organization the founding of which is certified and endorsed by notary Rafael Terrazas Cienfuegos, currently a PAN deputy to the Congress of Chihuahua.

At that time, PAN (in Ciudad Juarez) was still, rather than a political party, a club of opponents, most of them long-standing militants who alternated with each other in the party positions.

Upon observing the popularity and charisma of Barrio, supported by the Civic Front, the old PAN members decided to adopt him. They ran him as their official candidate, and suddenly PAN found itself invaded by hundreds of new members: the "neopanismo" came into existence.

With a broad, beatific smile, Barrio made a sweep in the elections, with his image of propriety, ethical conduct and parenthood, being seen often on the street with his four little daughters and his unassuming wife, Hortensia Olivas.

Now, and before having become municipal mayor, Barrio attends the Holy Family Parish, the curate of which is the priest Francisco Kfong. Most of Barrio's employees and collaborators in the city hall attend that same parish.

Among those employees is Sergio Americo Lastra Reza, the city hall's director of government, a sociologist who was graduated from the Autonomous University

of Guadalajara, and former editorial secretary for REPLICA, the magazine of "los Tecos" [a politically ultraconservative, religiously-oriented, semisecret organization with origins in Jalisco of the forties]. He is also in charge of the Residents Committees and organizer of the groups of "cholos" [rough-necks], comprised of poor young people, and of the Solidary Action Brigades, whose activity parallels that of the "cholos" but who, unlike the latter, consist of "nice children."

Another parish companion of Barrio's is attorney Sergio Conde Varela, secretary of the PAN city hall, who had been a senior official in a previous, PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] city hall. Since 1979, Conde Varela has been the leader of the "charismatics," in which capacity he leads the masses in the cathedral every Friday.

When Barrio included him in his government, Conde Varela declared that he had retired from politics, but would return to it, convinced that God was ordaining him to that mission.

Shortly after assuming the municipal mayor's position, Barrio announced (on 10 January 1984) the creation of the High Security Commands, police supposedly trained for confrontations with terrorists and dangerous criminals. But they are actually employed to put down social (student, union) movements, as occurred on 14 March 1984.

Together with groups of "cholos" and municipal policemen, the High Security Commands ("Comas," as people call them) raided the Escobar Brothers Advanced School of Agriculture; because they suspected that the students were "collecting weapons." They did not find any weapons, but they did wound and arrest students and teachers.

The "Comas" assumed a similar position on 8 June 1984 when, on the Commercial Crossing bridge, they quelled scores of teachers who were demanding a salary increase.

One of these repressive acts prompted what Juarez residents jokingly term the second invasion of the United States by a Mexican, after Villa's in Columbus. It occurred in this way:

To protest the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, "Chicanos" from El Paso and Ciudad Juarez organizations, each on their own side, held marches that were intended to meet halfway across the international bridge. On the El Paso side, the police confined themselves to watching, and the demonstrators attained their goal calmly. But on the Mexican side, the new PAN federal deputy, Hector Mejia Gutierrez, who at that time was municipal chief of police, and had himself called "colonel," went ahead of the marchers and closed the bridge off to traffic; although, in his eagerness for repression, he penetrated the United States side about 20 meters and, momentarily, carried out "the second Mexican invasion."

Criticized for his repressive position, on 15 June Barrio called for a "monster demonstration" on 20 June, the purpose of which was "to show the people's

repudiation for the anarchical groups." But on the day following the summons, 16 June, "Colonel" Hector Mejia and the city hall secretary, Sergio Conde, called the press and charged "a conspiracy to assassinate Barrio." According to those making the charges, the "evidence" of the conspiracy was this:

A hundred kilograms of dynamite had been stolen from the Chihuahua Cement company. Furthermore, the FBI had informed them of the arrival of "terrorists from the Caribbean" in Ciudad Juarez; but had not specified whether they were "Nicaraguans, Cubans or Puerto Ricans."

The blackmail worked: on 20 June, in front of the municipal palace, about 16,000 people gathered to "repudiate the anarchical groups" and back Barrio.

Nevertheless, shortly thereafter Chihuahua Cement reported that it had not had any loss of dynamite, nor was anything known about the terrorists. When interviewed on this topic, the FBI representative in El Paso, Ron Hoverson, would only say: "No comment."

But these explanations were of no use. On the contrary, Barrio and his employees kept stressing the charge of the "terrorist conspiracy." The mayor even declared:

"I fear the repudiation of my conscience more than the most heartless terrorist. If I must die, let it be when God wills. And I hope that it will be when I have fulfilled my obligations to him, as a man and as a ruler."

And these statements brought about the most ardent love affair between Barrio and the Juarez community.

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